

Congress (I) gambles on continuing a political dynasty

Party picks Gandhi's widow

India tense but little bloodshed reported

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SONIA Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi, was chosen last night as leader of the Congress (I) party in a bold gamble to keep the Gandhi-Nehru political dynasty alive. There was no immediate confirmation that she would accept the post.

She was selected unanimously at an emergency meeting of the party's working committee, the top policy-making body. The party is hoping that she will sweep to power on a nationwide wave of sympathy after the assassination of her husband on Tuesday night. More than 300 of the country's 537 constituencies have yet to vote.

The decision was taken with astonishing speed, clearly in an attempt to prevent leadership contenders from jostling for position. Nobody had guessed that Mrs Gandhi would agree to take over the reins from her husband, since she has shown almost no interest in politics since he first entered the Lok Sabha

(lower house) a decade ago. The search for a replacement leader had been expected to be a drawn-out affair.

The party's rivals were astonished by the decision and dismissed it as proof of Congress's bankruptcy. Privately, however, they must be worried. They had hoped that a bitter leadership contest and the absence of the magical Gandhi name would damage the party's general election prospects. Now they can only hope that Congress has misjudged the electorate's readiness to be led by a foreigner, albeit one who has become a naturalised citizen.

Gandhi lay in state in a government-owned house in Delhi yesterday as violence broke out across the country. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the bomb that killed him at an election rally in a small town 30 miles from Madras.

Politicians from other parties were jeered wherever they went and a mood of sympathy seemed to be taking hold, perhaps emboldening Congress to take its radical decision. The second and third days of voting were due to have been held today and Sunday, but the election commission, which was clearly concerned that violence might follow the assassination, ordered a postponement. The first day of polling took place last Sunday.

There was an air of tension everywhere but, by Indian standards, the violence was not severe and it did not match the reprisals that followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984. Crowds waited in the extreme heat, outside 10 Jangpoh, where Gandhi lies in state. The house was his official residence and was once used by his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, as an official residence. The rest of the city was, however, practically deserted.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have denied responsibility for the assassination. They were suspected because of the nature of the device that is believed to have been used, and because they regarded Gandhi as an enemy. He sent Indian troops into Sri Lanka to fight the Tamil Tigers under a 1987 accord.

with the Sri Lankan government, and this year he put pressure on the government of Chandra Shekhar to dismiss the state government in Tamil Nadu, which was politically unfriendly, and to impose direct rule from Delhi.

Scientists were last night still examining bomb samples taken from the site. Firecrackers were being set off when Gandhi was killed, and nobody was sure how many bombs exploded. A large crater was left in the ground, suggesting that an underground device was triggered by remote control. One theory is that a garland of flowers placed around the party leader's neck contained the device.

Tributes were sent from around the world as preparations were made for the cremation tomorrow at a site beside the Jamuna river in Delhi, where Gandhi's mother was cremated seven years ago. The presence of the army was clear in the capital yesterday, but although a mob broke into the mortuary where Gandhi's remains were being embalmed, little serious trouble was reported.

A 24-hour strike paralysed the state of West Bengal, however, and explosions were reported in the state capital of Calcutta. Violence erupted in most regions and at least six people were killed, but the protests were on a small scale, primarily because nobody knows who to blame. One anonymous caller told the *Times* of India that the killing was a joint operation by Sikhs, Assamese and Tamils.

Brackenheim Palace announced last night that the Prince of Wales would represent the Queen at the cremation. Neil Kinnock will represent the Labour party.

At the start of Commons business yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, condemned the assassination as a "fearful tragedy", but he expressed confidence that India "as a great democracy will surmount even this disaster". His comments were supported by Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, and by Sir Russell Johnston, for the Liberal Democrats.

Widow poised, page 11
Sonia profile, page 16
Obituary, page 18

Baker pushes hard for Saddam to step down

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

ALTHOUGH Iraq has agreed to withdraw its forces from the northern city of Dahuk, America made clear yesterday that it would never permit United Nations sanctions to be lifted while President Saddam Hussein remains in power. James Baker, the American Secretary of State, declared that as long as Saddam continued to hold the reins, Washington would not normalise relations with Iraq, and would stop Baghdad participating in new Middle East security and economic arrangements.

In testimony on Capitol Hill, Mr Baker delivered the Bush administration's strongest statement yet that Saddam must go, one that exceeded the terms of the UN ceasefire resolution and made thoroughly explicit an objective that America always repudiated during the course of the Gulf war.

Mr Baker labelled the Iraqi leader "a pariah whose actions put him beyond the pale of civilised international society", and said that "without any equivocation or doubt Saddam Hussein himself is the single greatest obstacle to any hope for the future of the people of Iraq, whether in terms of their own development as a society or in terms of their reintegration".

Continued on page 24, col 2

Lost children, page 14



Party's choice: Sonia Gandhi accompanying her husband's body into Delhi yesterday

Confusion as Baker bans fighting dogs

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A BAN on owning and breeding pit bull terriers, Japanese tosa and other dogs bred for fighting, is to be introduced before parliament's summer recess. But confusion remains about the government's plans after a Commons statement yesterday by Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary.

Ministers are struggling with instant legislation and it seems that they will need two dogs bills, this session and next, to achieve their objective

of curbing the number of attacks by dangerous dogs.

Mr Baker, who resisted opposition calls for a ban on the breed to be added to the list of banned dogs and for the introduction of a dog registration scheme, told MPs that he had been advised that entering the pit bull terriers would ensure their docility. He would take further advice but it was likely that the dogs would have to be put down. He would allow time for them

to be re-exported. Mr Baker confirmed that he would make it an offence to fail to control a potentially dangerous dog in public. Officials did not expect the offence to carry a jail sentence and were not certain if control measures and powers for magistrates to impose muzzling and leash orders on dangerous dogs would be in the first round of legislation.

There was further confusion when Mr Baker said he would consider "highly drawn" exemptions from the ban. Officials said this could involve "safe dog" certification by two vets. But the pit bull terriers' notorious unpredictability would undermine the value of certification.

Mr Baker said compensation for owners of dogs which had to be put down would be £20-£25, as suggested by the RSPCA, rather than the £300 estimated value of pit bull terriers.

Pit bull executors, page 2
Political sketch, page 24
Letters, page 17

Irish agree talks venue

By TIM JONES

THE political parties in Northern Ireland yesterday avoided a breakdown in their talks over the political future of the province when they decided that the Stormont building in Belfast will be the venue for their negotiations with representatives of the Irish government.

The decision came after the parties had spent almost four

weeks bickering and refusing to meet because they could not decide on a venue. The agreement appeared to represent a climbdown by the two main Unionist parties, who had said they would not be prepared to hold a second stage of talks on the island of Ireland while the Dublin government maintained its constitutional claim over the Province.

Heseltine to offer £75m bait to cities

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will announce today that the government is prepared to give local authorities up to £75 million to launch a new wave of projects to regenerate the inner cities.

Although 15 councils will be invited to bid for a share of the money, only ten will be awarded grants to pursue projects. Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne all have suitable projects in the pipeline and are expected to be among the first to bid.

Environment department officials refused to comment in advance of today's announcement, but it seems certain that the new initiative will be funded from existing resources. It marks the end of a three-month tour of the inner cities by the new environment secretary.

Since February Mr Heseltine has visited Blackburn, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wigan.

Mr Heseltine believes that the process of putting together a bid package encourages councils to make plans which are both achievable and which involve all sectors of the community. The programme will lay great stress on the need for private sector companies to become involved in the regeneration of inner city areas and will also require improvements in education and training.

Ministers are particularly keen to fund projects which tackle the social problems of inner city people as well as repairing the physical fabric of inner urban areas. The idea of using a competitive bidding process to award grants to inner city projects was floated by Mr Heseltine during a visit to Manchester in March.

The Labour party greeted the initiative with scepticism. Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, dismissed the plan as "a gimmick". The idea had more to do with headlines that urban regeneration, he said, "Although any new money is welcome, if it is new money, £75 million pales into insignificance beside the £370 million that London Docklands are receiving this year."

Carry demands aid, page 6
Leading article, page 17

Bank of England governor gets 17% pay rise

The regulator of Britain's money joins those getting pay boosts above the inflation rate, Neil Bennett reports

John Major's pleas on pay restraint appear to have fallen on deaf ears in some high places. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, was awarded a 17 per cent pay increase last year, more than double the annual rate of inflation.

The increase was not related to productivity. Although the bank has been even busier than usual regulating the banking industry and guiding the country's financial markets, its profits in the year to the end of last February fell by £11.7 million to £80.2 million.

The governor could nevertheless feel aggrieved if he were to be singled out for criticism. In a business where salaries sometimes run into millions, Mr Leigh-Pemberton's rise, comparatively modest £22,400 to £155,019 in the year to end-February.

Like many public servants, he could even argue that he is being underpaid. Had he remained in his previous job as chairman of the National Westminster Bank, which he left in 1982, he would now be earning £321,000 a year.

His latest salary boost was agreed by the non-executive directors in the bank's court. In the previous two years, when pay in the banks he watches over was storming ahead, Mr Leigh-Pemberton had been asked to content

Continued on page 24, col 4



Leigh-Pemberton: rise not related to results

TODAY IN THE TIMES

HEALTH

Paul Gascoigne has a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament - but what exactly has he done to himself? Page 15

BOOKS

Fay Weldon's short stories are as strong as ever on the subject of women's pain - but rather weaker when it comes to a talking house Page 20

FILM

Robert de Niro plays a victim of the Hollywood communist witch-hunt of the early Fifties - with mixed success Page 21

Liverpool purge

Labour's national executive expelled 25 Liverpool councillors and ordered an investigation into party members who supported six rebel councillors. Page 6

Mandela arrest

Winnie Mandela was arrested twice within a few hours in Johannesburg yesterday for obstruction during demonstrations in support of hunger strikers. Page 10

Hanson meeting

ICI said that its executives had met Lord Hanson who repeated that he had taken a 2.82 per cent stake, worth £240 million, in the chemical company for investment purposes. Page 25

INDEX	
Arts	21-22
Births, marriages, deaths	18, 19
Books	20
Business	25-31
Classified	19, 32-35
Court & social	18
Crosswords	19, 24
Health	15
Law Report	35
Leading articles	17
Letters	17, 38
Obituaries	18
Parliament	6, 7
Sport	36-40
TV & radio	22
Weather	24

Radio bid will be sweet music to classical fans

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CLASSIC FM, the consortium which led last year's lobby to ban rock music from the new "non-pop" independent national radio station only to withdraw unexpectedly last month, last night confounded the industry by submitting a tender for the FM stereo licence.

Backed by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, the opera singer, and André Previn, the music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Classic FM was one of three groups to submit offers for the licence to the Radio Authority yesterday's 5pm deadline. As widely expected, Radio Clyde, Scotland's largest commercial radio group, has joined with Lord Hanson to bid for the FM licence, and Sir Peter Parker's First National Radio (FNR) has also tendered.

Classic FM was able to enlist a new

financial backer at the 11th hour, following the departure last month of Carlton Communications and *The Daily Telegraph*, who are together bidding for the Thames Television and TVS Channel 3 franchises. GWR Group, the West Country independent local radio contractor which runs five licences along the M4 corridor from Reading to Wales, is now the largest proposed shareholder in Classic FM.

FNR said it plans to provide "a popular entertainment service, including music from the stage, film and concert hall". UK FM, the Radio Clyde/Hanson consortium which is also backed by Scottish Television, said it plans to provide "a flow of melodic music-based programming, including contemporary easy listening, movie theme tunes, stage musicals, popular classical music and big band music. Classic FM said it would be a popular

alternative to BBC Radio 3, offering "easy access listening to the popular masterworks of the great composers".

The Radio Authority ruled as inadmissible a bid from Metronome Radio, which planned to provide "environmentally-friendly music with no additives". Stephen Games, the chairman, said the regulator had not yet informed him of the reasons for rejection.

The FM licence, the first of three offered by the Radio Authority, will be awarded to the highest cash bidder. Unlike the Channel 3 auction, there will be no "quality threshold" to pass. Bidders must simply convince the regulator that they are "fit and proper persons" and their format lives up to strict rules governing what is "non-pop".

Television licences, page 3
Classic case, page 10

THE AMERICAN PATRIOTS

Author of FAVOURITE SON

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replace



At present, county councils run fire brigades outside the metro-

departments to free-standing agencies, leaving the core of the department to concentrate on policy.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of

If an area were to opt for a patchwork of small districts, each would be too small provide a fire service. The option of a national fire service is one solution to this dilemma. Another, being promoted by the environment department, is to create joint boards in rural areas to take over if counties are abolished. A Home Office spokes-

posals, there was no time for local authorities to respond properly to the plan for fire brigades.

● Cuts of £378,000 in Warwickshire fire brigade's budget, demanded by the government to meet the county council's capping limit, will seriously impair fire cover in the county, the chief fire officer says.

Mr Wallace Redford says in a report to the public protection committee that the cuts would reduce the standard of the service to below the minimum laid down by the Home Office.

Parliament, page 6

Mandatory grants for students living away from home are £2,845 in London and £2,265 elsewhere. The rate for students at home is £1,795.

The university senate approved plans for colleges to opt out of some services and negotiate budgets with the Universities Funding Council. The senate received proposals to streamline the country's largest university. Acceptance, which will require a parliamentary bill, should end years of infighting that threatened to break up the university.

Breakthrough time: Channel tunnel workers celebrating after cutting one of the two 31-mile, double rail tunnels. British and French excavators met just past the half way mark on British territory at 10.30am, having taken almost two and a half years to complete the north running tunnel from Folkestone and Calais (Michael Dynes writes). Completion of the south running tunnel in June will leave two years to fit track, signalling and commissioning. After the greatest tunnelling machine, nicknamed Europa, ploughed through the final layer of chalk, *sm* Robert Vilpoux, a French groter, cheered through the cutting face of the Japanese-built machine to cheers from the British.

"To my knowledge every one connected with this project, Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace, have been taken completely by surprise," he said. "There has been no feedback from the MoD as to why. In principle they could have kept them classified for 30 years," said Mr Bond.

A spokesman for the defence ministry confirmed yesterday that the system, code-named RB-545 in defence documents, were in the process of being declassified but would not say why.

Rover was sold to BAE for £150 million in exchange for £610 million of public money. The EC later ruled that the £44.4 million in hidden subsidies were illegal and ordered BAE to repay them. The company is challenging the ruling in the European Court of Justice.

Leslie Ward, who tied up and strangled his estranged wife in what he was said to have led her to believe was to be a "bondage game" was jailed for life yesterday. Ward, aged 46, of West Drayton, West London, who stood to gain £81,000 from the estate of his wife Sandra, was found guilty at Mold crown court of murdering her in a remote wood at Sontley, near Wrexham. Clwyd, last July.

The police said yesterday that homeless "outlaws" were turning central London into the "wild West End" and added that new legislation could lead to gangs of young people from Scotland or Ireland roaming the streets of London committing crimes. A report on the young homeless has been produced and makes 13 recommendations about the implementation of a new act.

Selfish

There are two methods of slaughter: a lethal injection or shooting. Mr Davies thought

Sir Douglas Hague, who between 1979 and 1983 was a member of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit, writes that British science has become too big to be managed by the methods of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils. Sci-

His attack appears in *The Management of Science*, a book that he has edited and which is published today by Macmillan. Sir Douglas, now a member of the board of CRT, the training, recruitment and consultancy business, has spent most of his

right to appropriate society's resources for themselves, simply because of their calling." They also take the view that Britain should participate in every field of research, regardless of national prosperity.

"As for managerial skills, scientists aren't perfect but if one looks at government in general one wouldn't think they were over-endowed either."

BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BETWEEN MAY 23RD AND MAY 25TH

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Tebbit QC attacks Bookbinder for not giving evidence

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LABOUR county council leader suing Norman Tebbit for libel was accused of wilful cowardice in the High Court yesterday when he took the unprecedented decision not to give evidence in his claim for damages against the former Conservative party chairman.

George Carman QC, counsel for Mr Tebbit, told the jury that it was being denied evidence from David Bookbinder, leader of Derbyshire county council, despite being asked to judge how his reputation had been damaged.

The remarks were made by Mr Tebbit at a meeting in Matlock during the Derbyshire West by-election campaign in May 1986. On the second day of the case the jury

was told by Mr Bookbinder's only witness, Daphne Camp, a retired local government officer, that nearly four million envelopes were recalled from council departments to be overprinted with the slogan "Derbyshire County Council is a nuclear-free zone". Mrs Camp estimated the cost of the exercise at about £10,000 for the reprinting plus unknown administration costs.

When Mr Bookbinder, aged 50, decided not to give evidence Mr Carman told the jury they had "made history in recent times as a libel jury where a man comes before the court claiming damages for injury to his reputation and distress to his feelings, and deliberately and consciously and wilfully keeps out of the witness box." Mr Carman said this was "because he knows there are questions he cannot and dare not answer".

Bookbinder: accused of lacking integrity

Likening the circumstances to a "Hamlet without the prince", Mr Carman added: "You see the cowardly spectacle of a retired junior employee, for whom you must feel some sympathy, being asked questions she is incapable of answering because Mr Bookbinder shields behind her skirts."

Mr Carman asked: "Did he bother to find out what his own policies would cost the ratepayers? This awkward question remains unanswered because he has not got the strength of character, integrity, decency and courtesy to the jury to go into the witness box and face the music and answer the questions. British juries know what to do with people who behave in that way."

"What sort of reputation has he got to lose? What reputation, if any, has he lost? You will never know because he has avoided giving evidence."

Mr Carman said that the true costs of implementing the council's policy would be lost in the mists of time. The matter should never have been brought to court because all Mr Tebbit had done at the election meeting was to make political comment.

The former cabinet minister had endured remarks that he was the "Chingford skinhead" and "Margaret Thatcher piranha" but had accepted such comments as part of the cut and thrust of British politics. Mr Carman said there was no malice in Mr Tebbit's assertion that Mr Bookbinder had wasted public money and he would be giving evidence today in the witness box, unlike the man who was seeking damages against him.



Golden chance: Georgina Naylor, director of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, with the Middleham Jewel

Heritage fund gives £1m to save pendant

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE National Heritage Memorial Fund is to give £1 million towards an appeal to buy the Middleham Jewel, a gold and sapphire pendant linked to Richard III, to prevent it being taken abroad. It is the largest grant the fund has offered towards the purchase of a piece of jewellery.

Georgina Naylor, the fund's director, said the grant would go towards an appeal launched yesterday by the Yorkshire Museum, York, where the pendant is on show. She said it was the biggest grant the fund had awarded to a non-national museum, indicating the importance of keeping the piece within the United Kingdom. "Future generations would be astonished if we allow this to go," she added.

A further £100,000 is being provided by the National Art Collections Fund, which assists museums and art galleries to buy works of art and which receives no government subsidy.

The diamond-shaped gold pendant with a large sapphire set in the front was found by amateur treasure hunters in a field near Middleham Castle in North Yorkshire in 1985. It is regarded as the finest piece of English gothic jewellery to have been discovered this century and could be linked to the court of Richard III, who regarded Middleham Castle as his favourite residence and brought up his son there.

The pendant was auctioned by Sotheby's for almost £1.4 million. Earlier this year it was revealed that the owner, whose identity has never been disclosed, wished to export it, although it is not known whether this was in order to sell it. The government issued a deferred order on the pendant, which was valued at £2.5 million.

A lavishly decorated dish by the Huguenot craftsman Paul de Lamerie broke the record for a piece of silver at Christie's yesterday when it sold for £1.4 million (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The "Maynard" sideboard dish was bought on behalf of the Flick family, German millionaires who live in Lucerne and London, and who plan to keep the dish in this country.

Sales tax urged to replace TV licence

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC licence fee should be abolished and replaced by a direct government grant when the Corporation's royal charter expires in 1996, the Institute for Public Policy Research, an influential left-wing think-tank, argues in a report published today.

A new sales tax on television sets, radios and video recorders to augment direct taxation would be collected by the government, before being passed on to the BBC. The Institute, which has close links with the Labour party, argues that up to £80 million could be saved each year if the BBC no longer had to collect the licence fee.

Although the proposal contradicts current Labour policy on the BBC, Robin Corbett, the opposition broadcasting spokesman, said it contributed to the report "one of a number of options"

being considered by the party to replace the licence fee after 1996.

However, he criticised the wisdom of any new sales tax that would increase the cost of televisions or radios in the High Street. The manufacturers or importers would have to pay the tax, he said.

The BBC says direct taxation would compromise its independence and limit its ability to plan ahead should it have to compete each year with health and education in the public spending round.

David Boulton, author of the report and former head of Granada Television's current affairs department, said: "So long as the price the BBC is allowed to charge the consumer is fixed not by the BBC but by government, the corporation's financial independence is a myth."

Radio franchise, page 1

Baker told that right of silence should go

Jail armed criminals for 25 years, police demand

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINALS carrying firearms should face a mandatory 25-year prison sentence and anyone wanting a gun licence should have to pass a detailed examination, the conference of the Police Federation said yesterday.

Delegates representing 120,000 police officers, meeting in Bournemouth, urged a radical change in firearms legislation and the introduction of controls on the sale and possession of replica guns.

Fred Broughton, a London constable and a federation official, said that the number of applications for guns from the inner cities was escalating. The reason was not a desire to shoot for sport but fear and a sense of vulnerability among some sections of communities, including ethnic groups.

Mr Broughton, who used to process firearms applications in east London, estimated there were 600 applications a year from part of the London

borough of Newham. He was concerned not only about the reasons behind the applications but the numbers of guns kept by those granted licences. He was terrified to discover people keeping as many as 50 weapons in their homes. The guns should have been stored in arsenals or armories, Mr Broughton said. Within Newham he could name at least three people who each kept more than 30 weapons.

Derek Wilbraham, a West Midlands sergeant who called for tougher sentences for criminals carrying guns, said the law allowed a 14-year sentence under one firearms act and a life sentence under legislation introduced two years ago.

However, the courts had not applied the maximum sentences under either acts. One sentence of six years had been given but that ran concurrent with a nine-year sentence for robbery. The protection of the police, he

said, could not be left to a "soft" judiciary. Guns were often used in the heat of the moment, when no amount of penalty held sway, but the mandatory sentence would act as a deterrent when a criminal was planning his crime.

During the debate on a test for the aspiring firearms enthusiast, Roger Lea, a Leicestershire inspector, said his proposal would allow gun clubs to test people who wished to apply for licences. They could be taught the rudiments of gun law, weapon handling and weapon use. There would then be the equivalent of a driving test before a chief constable would issue them with a gun certificate.

Calling for regulations on replica guns, Norman Davies, a Dorset inspector, said that few people could tell the difference between them and real guns when facing an apparently armed criminal.

Albert Hall plans £80m facelift

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Albert Hall in Kensington is to be revitalised at a cost of up to £80 million and might lead a campaign to re-establish London as an international arts centre. A master plan for the hall is to be announced at the end of June.

The building, opened by Queen Victoria in 1871 as the "hall of arts and sciences" and paid for partly out of the profits of the Great Exhibition 20 years earlier, is to have a facelift to prepare it for the 21st century. Already £1 million a year is being spent on basic refurbishing and that is to be increased to £2 million.

Patrick Deuchar, the Albert Hall's chief executive, hopes to raise the money to revitalise the hall from public and private sources over the rest of the decade. He feels that justice is not being done to London's performing arts and entertainment and that "there seems to be none of the civic will in London that there is in Birmingham or Glasgow".

He added: "We need a central co-ordinating, policy-making, fund-distributing, marketing and promotion conscious body that is free from party political pressure. I want, say, the 12 top arts attractions, including the South Bank, the National Gallery and the Albert Hall, to get together."

Speed record car seeks new garage

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A CAR with one careful owner, just 120 miles on the clock from new and capable of more than 650mph will have collectors queuing to pay a seven-figure sum to acquire one of the most remarkable vehicles of the century.

The car is the Thrust 2, in which Richard Noble set the world land speed record of 633.468mph on October 4, 1983. It made 11 passes at more than 600mph along a track of nearly 11 miles to give Britain the record.

The achievement set the motoring world alight, as Mr Noble, later appointed OBE, proved that a man dedicated to overcoming the problems of financing could break a speed record that had existed for 13 years.

However, the costs of keeping the 27ft-long, jet-powered car proved a burden in retire-

ment, forcing the four directors of Thrust Car to put the car up for sale by tender. Their problem is that no similar model has been put up for sale before, so that, although expectations are high, no one knows how much a world land speed record-breaking car could fetch from an enthusiastic collector. A recent bid for a former land speed car called Green Monster exceeded \$1.5 million.

Directors of the Thrust project expect their car, powered by an RAF fighter engine, to attract the same level of interest when tender bids are opened before October 4.

The car, which exceeded 650mph on its fastest run across the flats of the Black Rock desert in the United States, has been limited to appearing at charity events and motor shows since 1983.



For sale: Thrust 2, which can reach 650mph, gets to 200mph in nine seconds and has parachute brakes

In a speech peppered with criticism of the government's record on support for the police, Mr Eastwood told Mr Baker, attending the conference for the first time, that it was also time to consider putting a defendant's record before juries when relevant.

"How many times have we seen a jury shocked and distressed to discover the real history of the criminal only after he has been convicted of a much lesser offence?" he said. Rules of evidence bore little relationship to reality. "The old saying 'It is better for ten guilty men to go free rather than one innocent man to be convicted' is used to excuse the nonsense by which guilty men go free in scores because of the absurdities of our system of so-called justice," Mr Eastwood said.

Recent sensational cases of injustice were not typical of the justice system. It was remarkable how few cases each year raised genuine questions about police witnesses. Mr Eastwood said that forces were suffering from financial cuts and that it was time that the Home Office stopped saying, "Crisis, what crisis?". He added: "The crisis is here, the catastrophe is just around the corner."

In reply, Mr Baker offered no new initiatives but praised the police, saying: "Policing in Britain is the envy of almost every country." The right of silence should not be "so misused as to become a right to mislead", he said.

Mr Baker praised the identification of forces with their areas, and, at a time of speculation about the reorganisation of forces, implied that there would be little change.

Abbey's ex-owner gets £119,000 bill

By JOHN YOUNG

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, has ruled that the former owner of Revesby Abbey, a grade one listed house near Boston, Lincolnshire, should pay a £119,000 bill for essential repairs carried out by English Heritage in 1987 after the building had been allowed to decay.

He dismissed an appeal by Anne Lee, the head of a family trust that sold the house to a developer three years ago, against the imposition of costs. English Heritage said it was a precedent that would encourage owners to protect listed buildings against decay or risk substantial bills if the property had to be rescued by emergency action. The

repairs were carried out under an urgent works notice issued by the department, the first time such a procedure had been invoked outside London. Normally, such notices are served by local authorities.

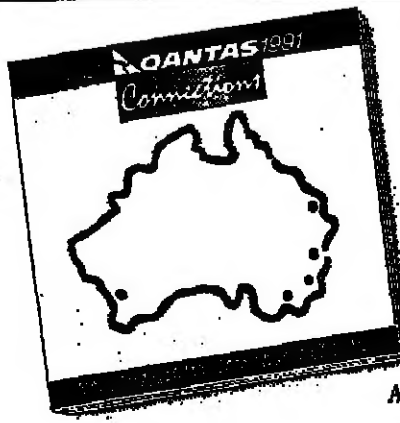
The house, designed by William Burn, a Scottish architect, in the Jacobean style with elaborate interior plasterwork, was built in 1844 and has been empty for 27 years. In 1977 Mrs Lee's application to demolish it was refused after a public enquiry.

The enquiry inspector also recommended that East Lindsey district council should carry out repairs, but the council failed to take action and four years later supported the idea that it should be demolished. Conserva-

tionists were outraged, however, and Revesby became something of a cause célèbre.

Eventually, English Heritage sent in its specialists to weatherproof the building and strengthen its structure, and obtained the consent of Nicholas Ridley, then environment secretary, to send the bill to Mrs Lee. Her objection to the cost recovery notice was considered at an informal hearing last July and has now been overruled.

Plans by the developer, FIL Group, to convert the building into luxury flats, restoring the plaster interiors and stonework, have been approved. The present Revesby Abbey replaced the former home of Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist accompanying Captain Cook.

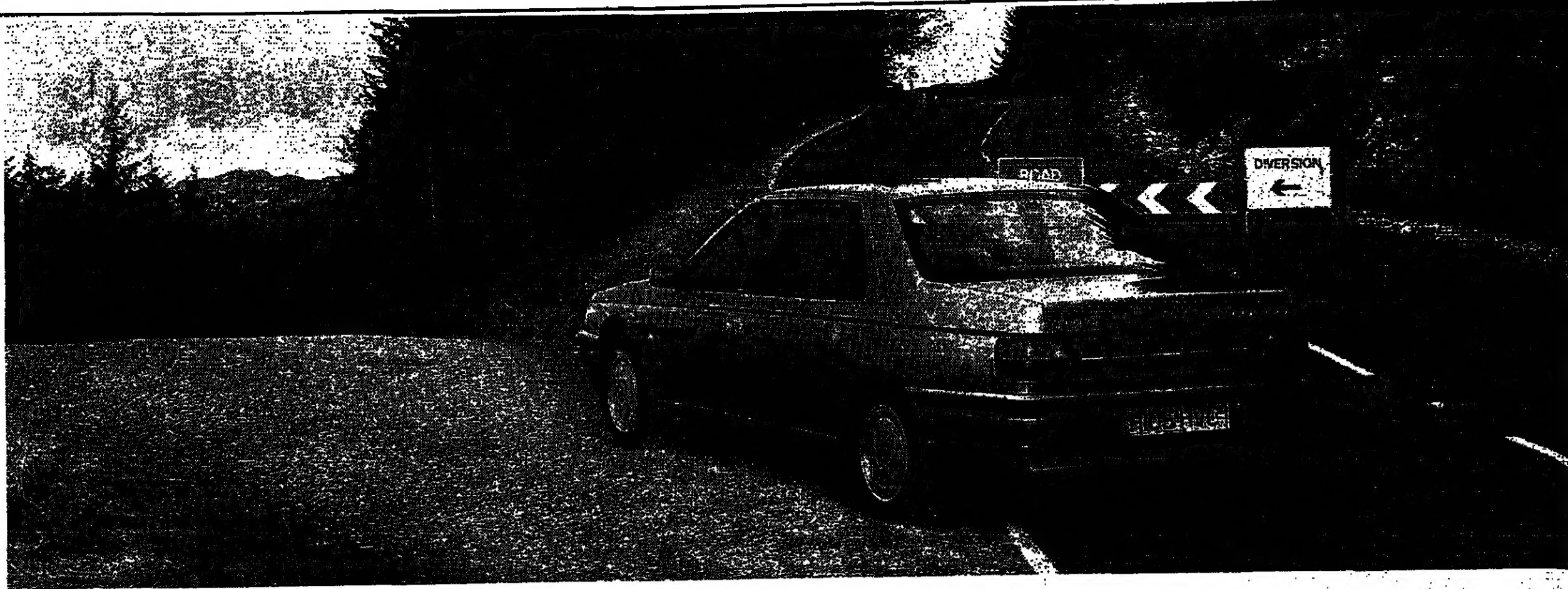


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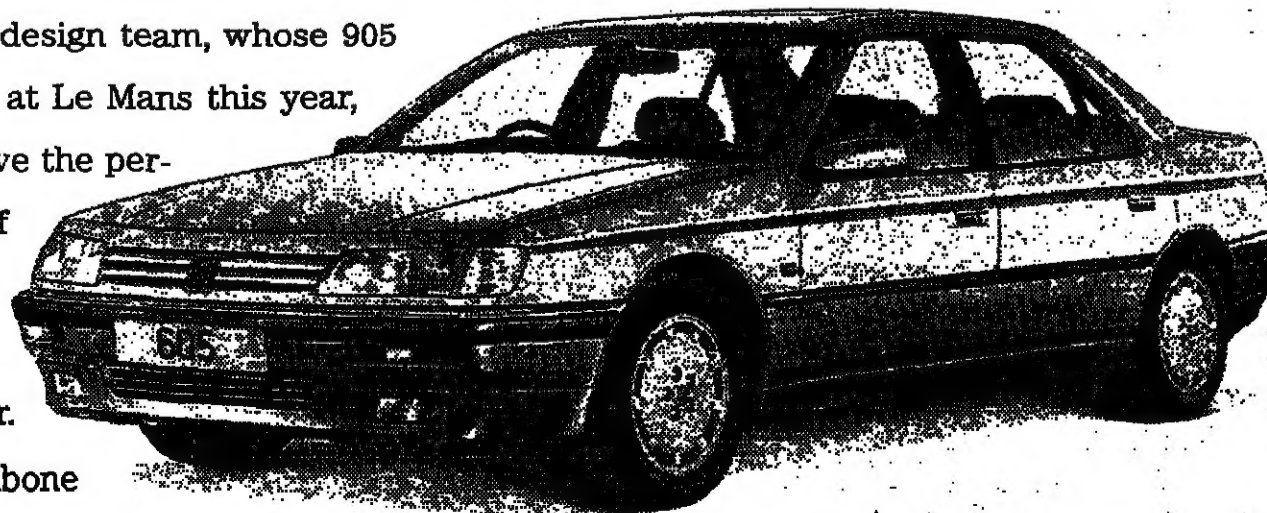
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New chapter opens in Paternoster planning saga

On the eve of the unveiling of a master plan for Paternoster Square, Charles Kneivitt looks at earlier and ill-fated proposals

TODAY's unveiling by the Prince of Wales of the £800 million redevelopment plans for Paternoster Square, north of St Paul's cathedral, opens a new chapter in the history of a site that can be traced back to the late fourteenth century.

A map dating from that period shows a walled precinct around the Romano-British cathedral, with Paternoster Row, the main thoroughfare through the precinct, named after the makers of rosary beads, or Paternosters, who lived there. The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed the cathedral and City, although the street pattern survived largely intact. The cathedral was quickly rebuilt.

Over the next two centuries the only significant change to the area was the formal enclosure of the rebuilt Newgate market. In 1869 the traders moved to Smithfield and in 1872 the vacant market was renamed Paternoster Square.

In 1940, German bombs destroyed the whole site, although the cathedral suffered only minor damage. Lord Holford, the architect and town planner, was appointed by the City Corporation in 1956 to produce a master plan. He chose not to reinstate the medieval street pattern, believing there was "more to be gained by contrast in design... than from attempts at harmony of scale or character or spacing".

His plan, which took its final form in 1961, elevated pedestrian access 6ft above

the original street level to allow car parking beneath the square. The office blocks including 90ft Juxon House to the northwest of St Paul's, were faced in Portland stone, with some slate, but the overall impression is of typical concrete and glass tower blocks of their day. The architects were Trehearne & Norman, Preston & Partners.

The tallest building was Saffery House, at the corner of Newgate Street and Warwick Lane, which rises 16 storeys above the podium level, six storeys shorter than Holford originally proposed.

In 1962, when Paternoster Square was being built, only the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, and Vickers Tower in Millbank were higher than St Paul's 366ft.

Holford's scheme was hailed at the time as "brilliant". However, by the mid-1980s tastes had changed, and were reflected forcefully in the speeches of the Prince of Wales. In 1984 he made his famous condemnations of the "monstrous car-bunkers" (a proposed extension to the National Gallery, subsequently abandoned), and "giant glass stumps" (a proposed office tower by Miles van der Rohe, at Mansion House Square, also abandoned).

In 1987, the Paternoster Consortium organised an architectural competition among eight leading architects and declared Arup Associates the winners. The prince was shown all the proposals before Richard Rogers, architect of the



Heart of the matter: St Paul's Cathedral looming over Paternoster Square, with Juxon House on the right

Lloyd's building in the City, was rejected as co-winner, against the judges' wishes.

The prince then secretly commissioned his own brief for the site and John Simpson, a young neo-classical architect, who is one of the three master planners of the scheme to be launched today, prepared his own design in time for the prince's speech at a Mansion House banquet in December 1987. On that occasion the prince charged

planners with the rape of Britain, developers and architects with being more destructive than wartime bombers, and called for a public debate and exhibition of the Paternoster plans.

He said planners, developers and architects had "wrecked the London skyline and desecrated the dome of St Paul's with a jostling scrum of office buildings".

The winning Arup Associates scheme was amended

to take into account some of his views. The classical design by Mr Simpson was later seen in the prince's "Vision of Britain" exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1989 and the Arup design was abandoned. The 4.2-acre site was then sold on; first by Mountleigh to ODC, a Venezuelan property company, and then for £160 million to Paternoster Associates. Last year Paternoster

Associates appointed Mr Simpson to work with the post-modernist architect Terry Farrell, and Thomas Beby, a neo-classicist from Chicago, to develop a new master plan, a model of which the prince will see in a converted shop unit on the Paternoster Square site this morning. Part of Mr Simpson's original proposal was to bring back Temple Bar and reinstate it next to the cathedral.



Temple Bar, now near Enfield, north London. It had been planned to resite it next to St Paul's

Exporting award firm in trouble

The English Provender Company went into receivership yesterday, only four weeks after winning a Queen's Award for its achievements in exporting preserves, condiments and pickles to Japan, America and Germany.

English Provender's exports totalled £400,000 last year and were expected to double this year, but the receivers were called in after the firm's bankers blocked a refinancing package to help to clear debts of £1.6 million. The company, whose products include the Great British Eccentric range of preserves, employs 32 people at sites in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire.

Osman loses

Lorain Osman, the Malaysian-born businessman who has been on remand in prison for five years, yesterday lost his fifth High Court attempt to defeat proceedings to extradite him to Hong Kong, where he faces fraud charges.

Jail victory

Inmates at Leyhill open prison, Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, have won a medal at the Chelsea flower show for herbs and vegetables grown in their prison garden.

Pilot's escape

A pilot landed his light plane safely after losing his nose-wheel when he hit the top of a hill in low cloud near Bourne-moat airport.

Boy drowns

A boy aged 17 has drowned while trying to swim across the river Adur at Upper Beeding, West Sussex, while fully clothed.

Kirk backs Scottish parliament

By KERRY GILL

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland yesterday overwhelmingly backed Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, when he asked the church to support the work of the constitutional convention which is trying to gain a Scottish parliament.

Sir David, who is a joint chairman of the convention and a commissioner to the assembly, told delegates meeting in Edinburgh: "The present organisation of the government in Scotland is so profoundly unsatisfactory as to be no longer acceptable. I believe that this is in fact deeply corrosive of the very fabric of our public life."

The Rev James Black had asked the assembly not to back the convention's aim of a Scottish parliament. Sir David was supported by the Rev Norman Shanks, who argued that a parliament would not lead to independence but would strengthen the present ties with the rest of the United Kingdom.



Sir David: present system corrosive of public life

Businesses cut costs with package tours

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

COST-conscious businessmen have created a boom in packaged city breaks by insisting that staff use the cheapest means for work travel on the Continent or in the United States. Demand for two and three-night breaks—originally intended as package holidays—has soared since the recession forced companies to economise on travel budgets.

Thomson Holidays says that the biggest rise in demand has been for breaks in New York, where three nights in a city centre three-star hotel costs £363, including a scheduled British Airways flight and

airport transfers, less than half the £742 cost of a standard economy return air fare alone.

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "Don't be surprised if the man or woman sitting next to you on a short break either in Europe or the United States is working on a lap-top computer rather than working out the best places to sight-see."

Owners Abroad, now Britain's second-biggest tour operator, says that bookings for its Sovereign City Breaks are 25 per cent up on last year, despite the general decline in travel after the Gulf conflict.

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Labour expels 25 rebel councillors in Liverpool purge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership prepared last night for what potentially will be its biggest purge against the Trotskyist Militant Tendency.

After expelling 25 rebel Liverpool councillors yesterday, Labour's ruling national executive ordered an investigation to track down party members who nominated, worked for or publicly supported the six councillors who stood against official Labour candidates in the recent local elections in Liverpool.

Labour sources agree that scores of members could face expulsion and it is understood from informed Labour sources that public remarks of two Labour Liverpool MPs, Terry Fields and Bob Parry, are to be examined by an enquiry headed by Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organisation.

By setting themselves up as a separate "broad left" group the Liverpool hard left, which includes Militant and other organisations, appears to have played into the hands of the party leadership. They have identified themselves. Until now the Liverpool public has had no way of knowing whether they were backing mainstream party candidates or supporters of Militant.

Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, said after yesterday's meeting: "They have made a big tactical mistake by running against the party. It might give them some short-term notoriety, but in the not so long-term it will be of great benefit to us. It is now clear-cut. The people of Liverpool have a clear choice — to support the official Labour party or the renegade group."

Mr Whitty added: "We are now in a much better position. This is a breakthrough."

The success of five unofficial Labour candidates in Liverpool earlier this month was a blemish on Labour's otherwise strong performance in the local elections. The party fully expects the Conservatives to highlight the behaviour of the Liverpool left at the general election, and the decision to intensify the purge against them was clearly taken with that in mind.

The five councillors elected on May 2 teamed up with 20

suspended councillors to form their own separate broad left group.

By standing against official Labour candidates they effectively expelled themselves. Yesterday, that was confirmed by the NEC. A Labour official said: "They have, as of now, been deemed to have repudiated their membership. They have put themselves outside of the party and they are no longer members of the Labour party."

The widening of the investigation to include people who supported the unofficial candidates was opposed only by Tony Bean and Dennis Skinner on the national executive.

Mr Whitty said: "We are looking for people who directly or publicly supported those six candidates. We are looking at people who acted as their agents or nominated them."



Minister at play: Angela Rumbold, the prisons minister (right), visiting Holloway prison yesterday to open a day nursery. She is with Sue, nursery deputy manager, and Kelly, four months, the daughter of a jail employee

Hesketh is Lords chief whip

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Hesketh, who used to run his own formula one motor racing team, was named by the prime minister yesterday as government chief whip in the Lords. He replaces Lord Denham, one of the few surviving members of Margaret Thatcher's 1979 government, who has been on the front bench for 30 years.

Lord Denham, aged 63, who spends his precious spare time writing thrillers and riding to hounds, will be able to expand his literary and sporting interests. He told John Major some months ago of his intention to step down around the time of the Whit recess.

Lord Hesketh, aged 40, moves to the demanding task of shepherding the government's business through the upper House from his post as minister of state at the trade and industry department. The vacancy created there is filled, at under-secretary level, by Lord Reay, aged 53, a junior Lords whip and a former member of the European parliament.

The prime minister, who has been sensitive to criticism of the dearth of women in his administration, also announced a promotion for Baroness Blatch, a close friend. Lady Blatch, aged 53, a former air traffic controller and leader of Cambridgeshire county council, moves up in the environment department to the rank of minister of state. Lord Reay will be paid £36,066 a year. Lord Hesketh and Lady Blatch will receive salaries of £43,010.

Lord Hesketh has unlikely antecedents for a chief whip. He ran away from Ampleforth at the age of 15, worked as a stockbroker in California and at the age of 22 became the youngest formula one constructor. He gave James Hunt, who was later to win the world crown, his first grand prix race. At 6ft 4in and about 17 stone, he cuts an imposing figure, an attribute that should prove useful when it comes to persuading recalcitrant peers to put away thoughts of rebellion.

Party learns value of discretion

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY'S decision by Labour's national executive to confirm the expulsion of 25 hard-left Liverpool councillors marked the latest stage in the party's seemingly unending battle with the Militant Tendency and other groups in the city and elsewhere.

Their departure was quiet, almost routine. It was a far cry from the days the purge began under Michael Foot's leadership in 1982 when Labour's Walworth Road headquarters was regularly besieged by supporters of the Trotskyist sect as first it was outlawed and then the five members of the newspaper's editorial board, including one of its founding fathers, Ted Grant, were thrown out of the party.

The key battle over the running of Liverpool came under Neil Kinnock. In a memorable performance at the Labour conference at Bournemouth he told Derek

Hutton and the other Militants: "You end in the grotesque chaos of a Labour council hiring taxis to scuttle round the city handing out redundancy notices to its own workers". A year later Mr Hutton and Tony Mulhearn were among nine Militant supporters in the Liverpool district party thrown out of the party.

Since those days the number of expulsions has rapidly grown, but only occasionally have they attracted publicity.

The committee first met in February 1987 and heard 17 cases before that year's conference. Six people were expelled by the committee, three of them Militants.

By the 1988 conference the committee was getting into its stride. It had heard 46 more cases during the year. About fifteen Militants were expelled from constituency parties and 15 other party members expelled for various reasons.

In the next year the constitutional committee heard another 71 cases. Twenty Militants, several from Glasgow, some from Plymouth, others from Berkshire, Cumbria, Eddisbury, and one even from Mr Kinnock's Islwyn constituency, were expelled. Eight Watford members were expelled for forming a rival group in the constituency party. Last year, another 52 cases were heard. Twenty-four Militants were thrown out of the party.

Carey demands aid for inner cities

By JOHN WINDER

MARGARET Thatcher's "trickle-down" theory — that everyone would benefit inevitably from an improvement in the national economy was denied yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury during his maiden speech in the House of Lords.

Dr George Carey, speaking in a debate on neglect in the inner cities, said that nothing could replace the commitment of central government to urban regeneration. Cuts in projects might be explained, but cuts were cuts, whatever name was given to them, and people's sense of powerlessness was reinforced.

"I am aware that the success of any partnership is inextricably linked with the economic prosperity of our nation," he said. "There is a link between the economic

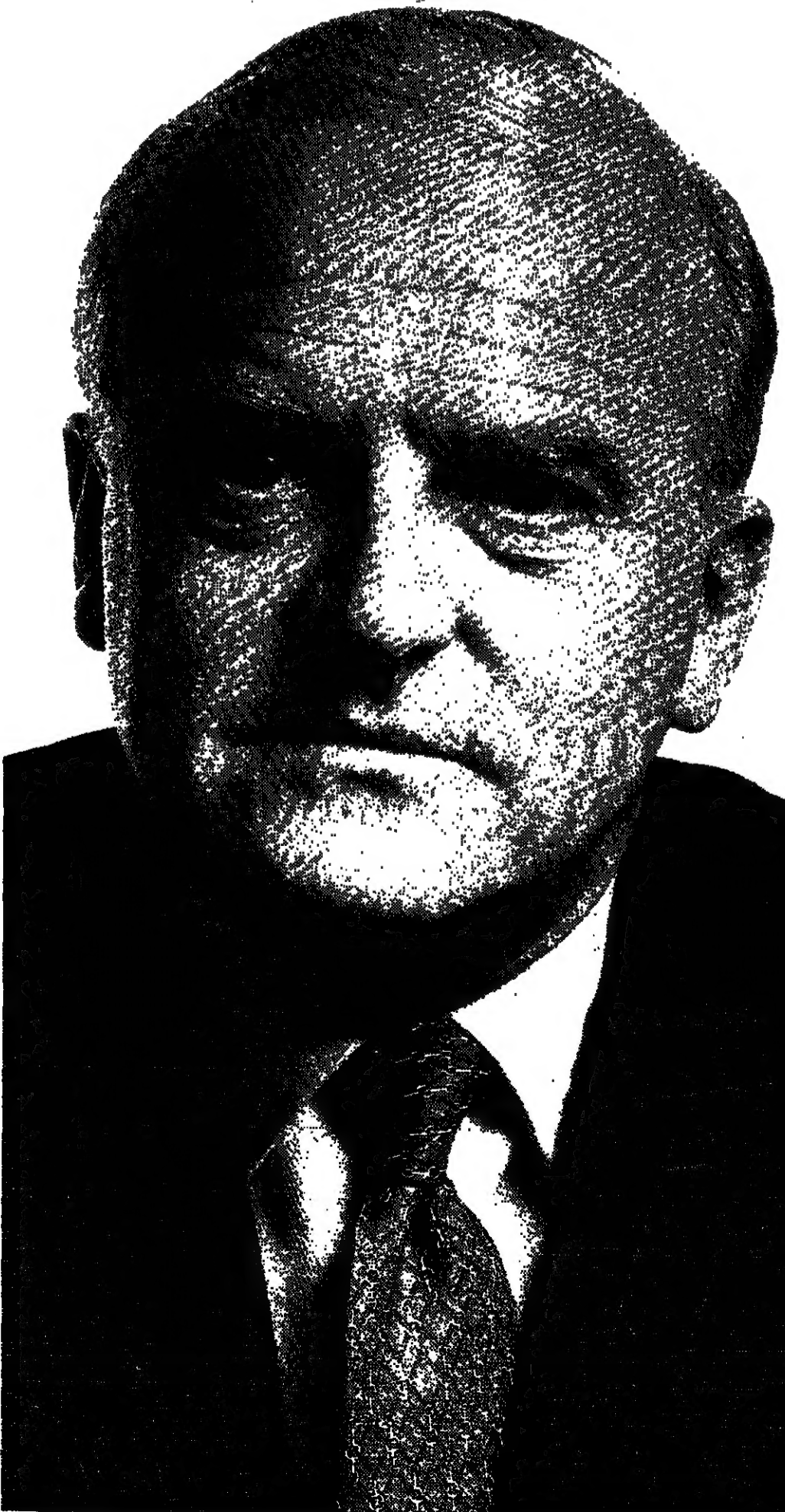
success of our country and of our inner cities."

"I want to suggest that the trickle-down theory, that our inner cities will benefit from generally increasing prosperity, is unsatisfactory because it suggests that the working people of our inner cities are only beneficiaries and not creators of wealth."

"That is not true and has the weakness of suggesting that we do not need a strategy for urban action and for resourcing urban priority areas. I want to suggest that we do."



Gould: will head enquiry into supporters



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Some hospital trusts have not yet filed business plans

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, admitted to MPs yesterday that many of the 57 hospital trusts have opted out of health authority control without putting in completed business plans to his department.

In a tough session of questioning with the Commons health committee, Mr Waldegrave defended the performance of the first wave of trusts, set up last month, as exposing the problems within the National Health Service.

During the three-hour hearing the committee was also

told by Peter Griffiths, chief executive of Guy's and Lewisham NHS trust, that some consultants spent too much time on international travel or in their Harley Street practices. Mark Baker, chief executive of the Bradford hospitals NHS trust, disclosed that two of the city's four hospitals may be closed.

When committee MPs criticised the setting up of trusts without final business plans, Mr Waldegrave said he had strong powers to intervene if the management of the opted-out hospitals went wrong.

The health secretary also told the committee that he resisted the temptation to interfere when the 600 job losses at Guy's and Bradford were disclosed during the local election campaign. Such a move would have politicised at the first hurdle the policy of devolving management of the hospitals to the trusts.

"That would be a dreadful signal to send and I refused to allow myself that luxury," he said. Mr Waldegrave added that he hoped job cuts in the health service would result in fewer, better trained, better paid staff. "But do not think the only way of measuring the success of your health care system is the number of people and the length of time you keep them in hospital."

Sheila Masters, director of finance on the NHS management executive, said that discussions were continuing over the business plans that should have been submitted by March 8 before the first wave of trusts were set up. Timetables for completing the plans had been agreed individually.

David Hinchcliffe, Labour MP for Wakefield, questioned the health secretary about reports that Peter Griffiths was taken on as chief executive of Guy's at £90,000 a year, with cars for himself and his wife. Mr Griffiths agreed to give his salary details to the committee in confidence.

Mr Waldegrave said that the salary was a matter for the trust board and Mr Griffiths earned every penny of his salary which was no more than a consultant received, in running one of the greatest hospitals in the world.

When giving evidence, Mr Griffiths praised the staff at Guy's, but added that some improvements were needed. "We have 250 consultant staff. The vast majority work way, way above their contracted hours and services, but there are some who spend too much time on international travel and not enough time in the hospital. Some spend too much time in Harley Street and not enough in our facilities. There are some whose clinical practice is not up to the standard which their colleagues would wish it to be."

Dr Baker from Bradford hospitals trust indicated to MPs that Woodlands Orthopaedic Hospital and Bierley Hall Hospital might be closed. He said that seven ward units were due to close by the end of this summer and possibly a further six would close by April 1994. A consultation document on the overall provision of hospitals would be submitted this autumn.



Enquiry into nazis begins

The war crimes investigation unit, set up by the Metropolitan Police commissioner, is to begin its investigations immediately, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said in a written reply. To meet urgent expenditure, £300,000 is to be made available to the unit.

MPs' holiday

Both Houses rise today for the spring recess and return on June 3. The first business facing MPs will be second reading of the local government bill, announced on Tuesday, to give power to the government to cap the spending of all local authorities.

S Africa visit



Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is to visit South Africa in the summer. Lynda Chalker (above), the overseas aid minister, announced in a written reply. Mrs Chalker visited the republic and Mozambique earlier this year to review aid programmes.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Spring recess debates on a variety of subjects, including dangerous dogs. Lords (11): Debate on science and research and development.

Changes 'needed to draft EC treaty'

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE draft European treaty on political and monetary union will need substantial change before it can be supported by the British government, Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said yesterday.

He was speaking during question-time exchanges in the Commons during which differences of emphasis among Tory MPs on the future of Europe again came to the surface.

His comments come after those of John Major, who has said that a Tory early day motion expressing outright opposition to a single European currency "rightly identifies items which need to be changed and will be changed before negotiations are completed".

William Cash, author of the motion, MP for Stafford and an anti-federalist, said that Mr Major's statement had "gone down extremely well with a very, very high proportion" of Conservative MPs.

However, Nicholas Budgen, Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, told the foreign secretary that the role of political leadership was to explain which were the issues of principle and which were

those of detail. He added: "There is a grave danger that this House and this country will be left without leadership on this vital issue of economic and monetary union."

There were loud murmurs of dissent on the Tory benches when Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for Clwyd North West, said that there was no general willingness to "tie the hands" of Mr Hurd by imposing conditions as to which concessions he might wish to offer to secure still more vital British objectives.

Mr Hurd said that there needed to be a constant process of debate and he understood that MPs would have an opportunity between now and the Luxembourg summit next month to go over the issues again.

Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, accused Mr Hurd of coyness and asked if the government was in favour of a single currency and European monetary union, or of the policy advocated by the motion which, he alleged, represented Mr Major's view. "Which of these is their policy or are they dithering between the three?"

Monmouth defeat puts bite into Tory style

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

The lady herself these days may prefer the audiences to be found in America, South Africa or Moscow, but the Thatcher style is catching on again.

John Major's seizing of the initiative on dangerous dogs, after Kenneth Baker had wrested that initiative from officialdom, was pure Thatcherism, in the sense that that word always stood more for a style of government than for an ideology.

A real change has come over Mr Major's government in the past few days and it may turn out that Labour's victory in Monmouth was the best thing that ever happened to the Conservatives.

Until Monmouth, the Tories had consoled themselves that they had climbed back from the hideous opinion poll figures of a year before, when Labour led by 20 points. If it was level pegging now, that did not matter. Labour had peaked too soon, they assured themselves, and things could only get better as inflation and interest rates came down.

Monmouth, which was to have been the start of the recovery, came as a shock. But what has been intriguing is the change of style since. The Conservative hierarchy deliberately sacrificed the headlines they might have won for last Friday's drop in the inflation figures by going for what they called Labour's "big lie" on the Tory health service reforms.

In initially anguished debate between Central Office and Downing Street, the tactic was acknowledged to carry risks. Much of the Tory tabloid press duly characterised John Major and Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, as bad losers. That stung a prime minister who prides himself on his interest in sport. Hence Mr Major's congratulations this week to the winning Labour candidate.

The other risk showed when Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, was asked to comment after the catfight between Mr Patten and Labour's Jack Cunningham on the BBC2 Monmouth by-election results programme. He was only sorry, he said, that the polls were not still open: if they had been, then his party would have taken every vote remaining.

Ministers on tour last weekend found Tories upset by the slanging match, and some MPs fear that if it continues between now and an election postponed until next year, then the Liberal Democrats could benefit from the "plague on both your houses" factor. But still there are no regrets in the Tory camp about the chaser tactics.

It was not just a diversion from the Monmouth result. The Tories have seen and recovered from worse results than that. It was a question of neutralising an issue that would continue to cost them votes until the election if



Wilson: slanging match offered gains to Lib Dems

Labour's version of the health service reforms was allowed to take hold in the public mind. It was designed not only to alter the phraseology of shadow spokesmen, which it has done, but also to make

newspaper headline writers pause for thought in the future.

What was striking was the ferocity, the co-ordination that has been lacking from previous Tory efforts, and the energy with which the

assault on Labour continued. The Tory politicians assigned the leading roles played their parts with fervour.

Mr Patten, who launched the whole row, was looking for a way of silencing right-wing Tory critics who have found the new regime at Central Office too cerebral and insufficiently prepared to "mix it".

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, carrying the blame for Labour's run of success on National Health Service issues, clearly feels the compulsion to show that fellows of All Souls too can strangle tarantulas with their chest hairs. And Mr Major, now a far more aggressive animal at question time, smarts constantly at the comparisons with the fighting qualities of Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Major believes that the Tories have to meet and win the arguments about the National Health Service now, rather than in the middle of a general election campaign. The party's dilemma, he acknowledges, is that if the government does not reform health service performance, then many of its branches will never operate at levels at which the public feels that it is safe in Tory hands.

Labour, however, has so far succeeded in implanting the notion that reform is a code for dismantling and privatising the health service. Friends say that as a genuinely committed supporter of the NHS, the prime minister feels a burning

resentment of Labour's hijacking of the issue and is determined to reverse it.

The ferocity of the Tory effort to do so surprised Labour, about the first time they have been surprised by this government.

Ministerial energy expended on the pure politics of the row for the first time reflected the effort Labour has been putting into its own endless clause by clause relaunches of policy documents. The appointment of Richard Ryder as a government trouble shooter, John MacGregor's attempt to browbeat the building societies and the swift action on dogs have shown a new spirit in the Tory ranks.

Monmouth convinced many in the government that there was, after all, nothing inevitable about a Tory recovery and that Labour could win the election.

Until Monmouth there had been a growing public sense that this was no longer a government that cared enough about what it was doing. Ministers were standing there just soaking up punishment until, they hoped, the economy started to come right. Now it is beginning to look like a government prepared to wade into the battle.

The post-Monmouth onslaught may not stop Labour in its tracks, but it has done wonders for Tory morale internally. The only puzzle is why "Operation Big Lie" was not mounted while there was still some hope of saving Monmouth.

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DPP seeks to end ban on prosecutors as judges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Director of Public Prosecutions is pressing for the lifting of a ban that prevents prosecutors from the Crown Prosecution Service being eligible for appointment as judges.

In an interview with *The Times* Sir Allan Green, QC, said that the "total embargo" on prosecutor judges should be removed. "I personally would very much welcome the opportunity for appropriately qualified and experienced members of our staff to sit part-time in a judicial capacity, for example as acting stipendiary magistrates, or assistant recorders," he said.

Sir Allan acknowledged the strength of concern from the Lord Chancellor's department over the "perception of justice", and the fear that crown

prosecutors sitting as part-time judges would be "perceived as being biased in favour of the prosecution".

There was no evidence, however, that barristers whose work had been almost entirely prosecution-minded turned into prosecution-minded judges; there were examples showing quite the reverse. A prosecution background could sometimes help a judge spot defects in a prosecution case, he added.

Sir Allan emphasised that it would be wrong for prosecutors to sit as judges in districts where they prosecuted. Eligibility for part-time judicial posts would mean some prosecutors might progress to the circuit or High Court bench. "I do not envisage a very great number of such appointments but the total embargo I would like to see removed."

Sir Allan's comments came on the day that he and the government legal service published their challenge to Bar rules that deny employed barristers rights of audience, although he said the two issues were not linked.

Explaining the case for government lawyers to be allowed to take crown court rights, Sir Allan pointed out that one of the defects of the present system (in which crown court work is handled by the Bar) was the high number of returned briefs just before the case — 70 per cent in some parts of the country. The reasons were complex: listing of cases was extremely difficult.

Home sales recovery 'is stalled'

The modest recovery in the housing market has been stalled, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says in its quarterly survey published today.

Peter Miller, the institute's housing market spokesman, says that enquiries from would-be buyers are increasing but the potential demand is not being translated into sales. The prospects of further recovery are best in East Anglia, where sales are rising, but the market is static in the Midlands and Wales.

"Worries about the deepening recession and fear of unemployment have replaced high interest rates and the Gulf crisis as the main causes of continued uncertainty," Mr Miller says.

Charter take-off

The first charter flight from Heathrow airport for 20 years will take off today. The Air 2000 flight to Faro, Portugal, one of eight new weekly holiday flights, has been allowed under government deregulation at Heathrow.

Bastiality case

Pamela Prodet, a deputy head teacher aged 44, of Sydenham, south London, was remanded on bail by Greenwich magistrates yesterday accused of two offences of bastiality.

Pupils arrested

Four pupils at Marlborough public school, two boys and two girls, were arrested yesterday after a raid by 25 drug squad detectives who found "suspicious substances". Teachers at the Wiltshire school called in the police.

Death enquiry

Three men and a woman were being questioned yesterday by police investigating the death of Khalid Dad, aged 21, whose headless body was found near a school in Slough, Berkshire.

Cyclist killed

A cyclist who was riding along a platform at Whitstable railway station in Kent died after falling between the platform and a moving train. Police said that the man fell from his cycle after being challenged by a guard.

Extracting service from the dentist

By ALICE THOMSON

THE National Consumer Council has come to the aid of dental patients who may be too intimidated by surgery nerves to ask about their treatment and its cost.

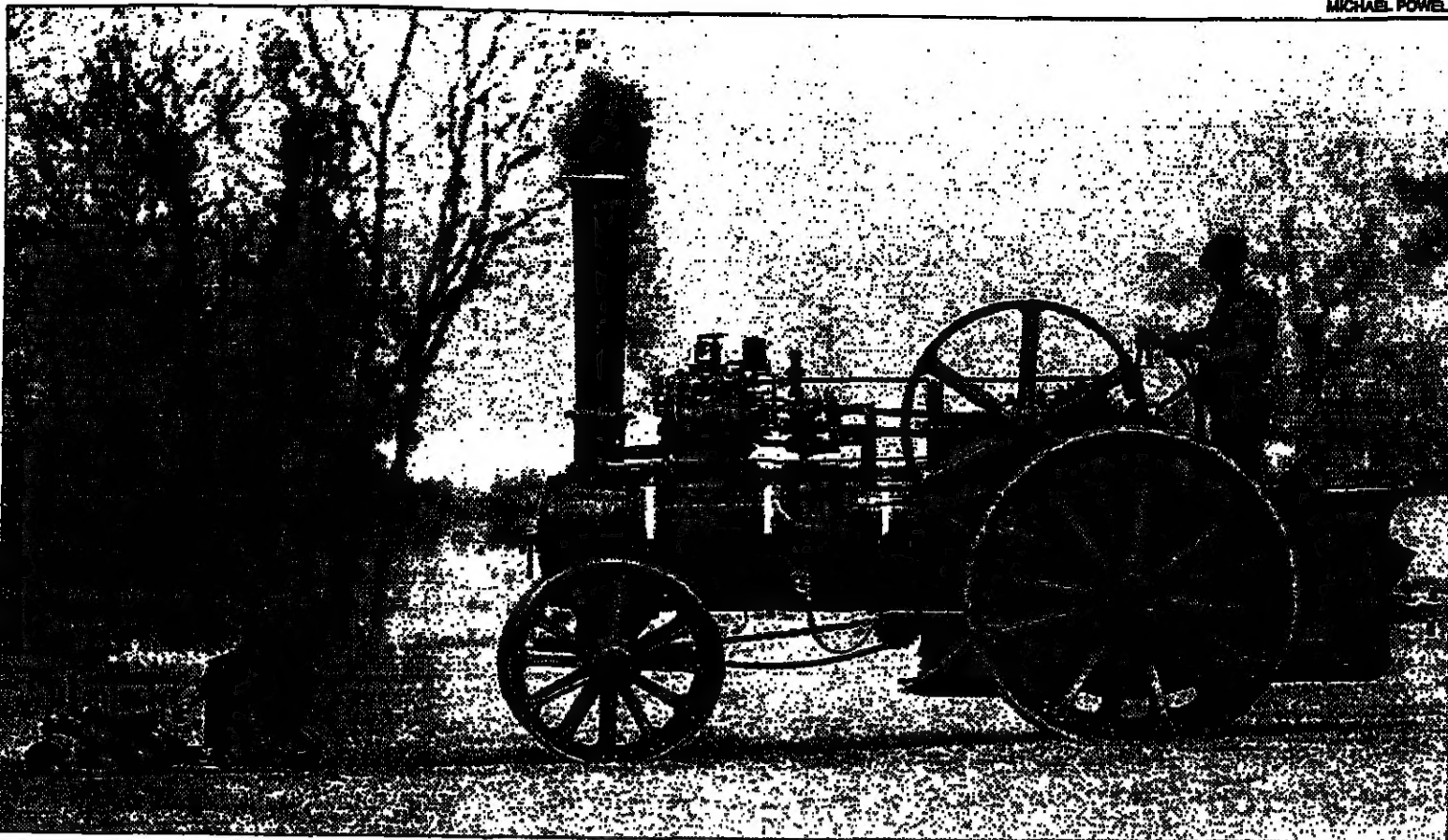
A pamphlet published by the council today is aimed at helping patients to understand what their rights are. *Dentists: A guide to patients rights* helps people to discuss their concerns with dentists they feel ill or extract teeth that could have been left untouched. It gives a list of charges for simple NHS dental services.

The guide explains what NHS patients should be receiving under the new "continuing care contract" bought in last year by the health department. All NHS patients are now entitled to a written treatment plan explaining the work about to be carried out and its cost. The pamphlet reminds pa-

tients that they will be charged for check-ups, x-rays and advice on teeth care as well as for treatment.

A spokesman for the Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales, which helped to produce the pamphlet, said: "The fear that many dentists inspire is usually unfounded and modern techniques mean that patients no longer have to suffer gas or endless drilling, but there are still stories of treatments that go wrong or don't last."

The pamphlet advises National Health Service patients who are unsure of their dentists' advice to find another dentist to provide a second opinion and to demand free repairs or replacements for dental work going wrong within 12 months. The pamphlet is available free from local community health councils.



Double vision: a miniature steam engine followed by a 1908 Avon & Porter 7 hp general purpose agricultural engine at the Quarry Steam Museum, Bodiam, East Sussex, which opens for the first time to the public on Saturday. The museum is owned and run by John and Thana Eastwood and has a nucleus of ten vehicles, acquired by John's father, Doreen Eastwood. They are all in working order and at least one will be in steam every day that the museum is open. The engines include a Barrell "showman's" used to power lighting and rides at fairs.

Alcohol 'can prevent early death'

By KERRY GILL

MODERATE consumption of alcohol can prevent premature death although how much protection it offers is uncertain, a conference at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh was told yesterday.

Professor Michael Marmot said alcohol was a net preventer of death in spite of Alcohol Concern's recent claim that there were 28,000 deaths a year due to alcohol in England and Wales. The con-

ference discussed the relationship between alcohol consumption, heart disease and mortality.

John Duffy, a senior lecturer in statistics, said that Alcohol Concern's claim was "erroneous". It had been based on poor research completed in 1988 and later published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr Duffy told the conference, organised by Edin-

burgh university's Alcohol Research Group that the research was based on a study at Californian health centres. It applied the percentage mortality figures to parts of England and Wales to calculate the expected number of deaths. However, Dr Duffy said that the death rates in the American study were useless for a correct calculation of attributable risk in England and Wales. The American

study looked at categories consuming units each week ranging from nil to more than 36. A drink was presumed to be more or less the standard US drink. Yet the Brewers' Society said that three US drinks a day was the equivalent of 36 units a week. "Six (American) drinks per day is the equivalent of 72 units per week, and thus the categories employed ... are completely erroneous," Dr Duffy said.

Prison officer jailed for assault

A PRISON officer was jailed yesterday after being found guilty of kicking and punching an inmate.

Christopher Carlton, aged 31, was convicted on three charges of assaulting John Thomas Teale, a 27-year-old prisoner, at Armley jail, Leeds. Carlton was given a nine-month sentence, of which three months were suspended, after a five-week trial at Durham crown court.

Mr Justice Jowitt told Carlton: "You were in a position of trust to guard those whom society sends to prison to be punished. It was not for you to add your own punishment."

The trial stemmed from police enquiries into complaints by prisoners that they were assaulted at Armley jail between 1987 and 1989. Malcolm Swift, QC, for the prosecution, said that Teale was taken to the punishment block, where Carlton and two other officers kicked and punched him. Carlton later hit Teale twice more, knocking him to the floor, and 15 days later punched him in the eye.

Carlton was cleared of five other assault charges and one of perverting the course of justice. James Stewart, QC, for the defence, said he was a man of "exemplary character".

Two other prison officers, Neil Coleman, aged 28, and Trevor Bowen, aged 47, were cleared of assault. Mr Bowen was also cleared of perverting the course of justice.

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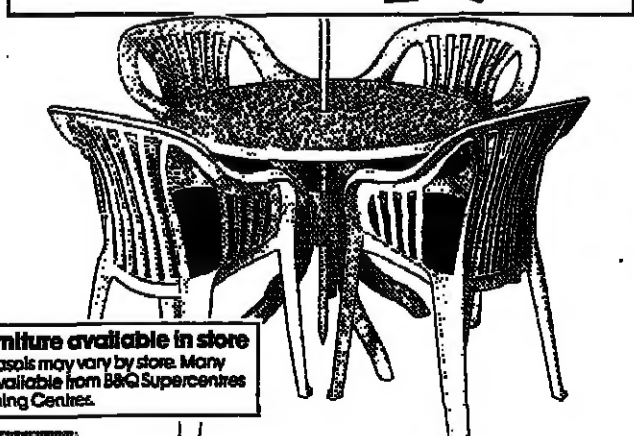


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Winnie Mandela is arrested twice in clashes with police

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela, sentenced last week to six years' jail for kidnapping and complicity in assault, leapt back to the centre of the South African political stage yesterday when she was arrested twice within a matter of hours.

Her husband and deputy president of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, who was involved during the episode, said that his wife had been "beaten and bears the scars" from her arrests. He tried and failed to get President de Klerk to intervene.

Mrs Mandela was arrested for obstruction after an all-night vigil in central Johannesburg over the fate of political prisoners on hunger strike for 22 days. The demonstration was staged by the ANC Women's League. A minibus secured by a heavy chain was used to block off one of the city's main thoroughfares. Fifteen other protesters were also arrested, and taken to police headquarters at John Vorster Square. They were released after appearing before a magistrate, who set a hearing for June 21.

Meanwhile, about 200 members of the women's league, led by Albertina

Sisulu, the organisation's national vice-president, had been arrested outside police headquarters after staging a protest against Mrs Mandela's arrest. Mr Mandela telephoned President de Klerk, but was told that he was still asleep. Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order whom the ANC is demanding should be sacked from the cabinet, said that he would investigate what had happened.

When the two groups were released from police headquarters, Mrs Mandela led another march of about 100 supporters back to the scene of her arrest. This time police went into action swiftly and for the first time in a so-called "unrest" situation used stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowd.

As Mrs Mandela was seized by two policemen, she screamed: "What are you doing? Don't pull me. Don't pull me." She was bundled into a police car, telling bystanders: "You see for yourselves these vicious men have manhandled me right in front of the public. This is not going to deter me. The struggle goes on." Earlier, after her first arrest, Mr Mandela had indicated he might bring assault

charges against policemen. However, Captain Eugene Opperman, a police spokesman, said a police video unit had filmed the entire episode because they anticipated such allegations would be made. He added that Mrs Mandela had "resisted and force had to be used to arrest her to keep her body under control".

She was freed for a second time after her lawyer promised that the streets would not be blocked again. On her release, Mrs Mandela announced that the women's league was calling a nationwide strike for today to press for the hunger strikers' release.

The mass arrests and Mrs Mandela's dramatic reappearance in the political spotlight after her four-month trial came at a critical phase in the stand-off between the government and the ANC over talks on power-sharing. The ANC is refusing to attend a two-day summit on violence called by the government, which is due to begin in Pretoria tomorrow, and the South African Council of Churches also announced last night that it would not be taking part. The council, however, said its decision did not mean total rejection of the president's initiatives.



Force of law: Winnie Mandela struggles as she is arrested for the second time yesterday in Johannesburg. She was later charged with obstructing traffic and resisting arrest and told to appear in court on June 21.

Peking seeks action on refugees

Hong Kong - China again said that Britain must help Hong Kong to solve its Vietnamese boat-people problem before the colony returns to Peking's control in 1997 (Jonathan Braude writes). The remark came as the number of Vietnamese asylum-seekers in the territory's detention centres passed 50,000 for the first time since 1979, when 1,000 boat people a day entered Hong Kong territory.

The *Wen Wei Po* newspaper, regarded as an unofficial mouthpiece for China in Hong Kong, said the colony should drop its policy of granting temporary "first asylum" to every Vietnamese landing there. In the past, China has urged that all boat people should be resettled abroad or repatriated before the handover.

Malruway visit: Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, arrived in Hong Kong for a four-day visit.

Fiery leap

Kwangan - Chong Sang Sung, a South Korean taxi driver aged about 25, set himself ablaze and leapt 13ft from the roof of the mortuary holding the body of a protest suicide victim. Witnesses said he shouted "Let's kill [President] Roh Tae Woo" as he jumped. He was admitted to hospital with serious burns. (Reuters)

Rights move

Kampala - First steps were taken towards a declaration to guarantee human rights in Africa when a conference in the Ugandan capital organised by the Africa Leadership Forum urged the forthcoming African leaders' summit in Nigeria to establish a conference on security, stability, development and co-operation.

Cyclone relief

Kutubdia, Bangladesh - HMS Fort Grange has arrived in the Bay of Bengal and begun an operation to ferry basic survival kits ashore to the islanders of Kutubdia and Maikhal whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed in last month's cyclone when 15,000 people, a quarter of Kutubdia's population, were killed.

Crete reunion

Iraklion, Crete - British, Australian and New Zealand veterans of the attempt in the second world war to repel the German invasion of Crete are meeting here this week to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle. German veterans, and Helmut Kohl, the Bonn chancellor, will also be present. (Reuters)

Army pay scales

Manila - General Arturo Enrile, head of the Philippines armed forces, says he wants to use fish to buy military equipment. The country has an abundance of tuna and other fish which could be exchanged for much-needed armoured vehicles, automatic weapons and communications systems, he said. (Reuters)

Gay scout ban

Los Angeles - The Boy Scouts of America can prohibit as openly homosexual men from becoming a scoutmaster, a superior court judge ruled here. The ruling said that the US constitution protected the organisation's freedom to state in its national policy that homosexuals are poor role models. (AFP)

Hopes of Ethiopian peace are dashed

FROM JAMES SHIMANYULA IN NAIROBI

HOPES for a quick end to the civil war in Ethiopia were dashed yesterday as heavy fighting continued west of Addis Ababa, where government troops continued to stop rebel forces entering the city.

Sources said the troops were fiercely engaged with rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front between Addis Ababa and Genet, 12 miles apart on the road to the Addis Ababa. Addis Ababa is some 30 miles west of Addis Ababa, where joy at the departure of Mengistu Haile Mariam as president was last night replaced by fear with the realisation that his removal might not be enough to stop a bloodbath.

Addis Ababa was captured in attacks by the front on Tuesday night as Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu arrived in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, to join his wife. The couple owns a house there.

Reports of heavy fighting between Addis Ababa and Genet were confirmed yesterday by an African diplomat in Addis Ababa. "Things have reached boiling point at Addis Ababa and Genet... heavy fighting is continuing there."

"If the rebels reach Genet, Addis Ababa is likely to fall, although it may take a week or so," the diplomat added. Another group of rebels was advancing towards the capital from Karakore, south of Dessalegn, the provincial capital of Welo. Rebels advancing from the west were more likely to capture Addis Ababa than those coming from the north.

Leading article, page 17

Forced smiles as Tibet 'celebrates'

By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

WITH Lhasa under tight security Chinese authorities attempted yesterday to present to the world a picture of happy Tibetans celebrating the 40th anniversary of communist rule.

Peking's national television news showed Buddhist monks mockingly blowing horns, and Tibetans shouting in delight as they lined the streets to cheer a central committee delegation. But their slogans had been dictated in advance by the Tibet Daily.

The central committee delegation processed through the streets of Lhasa, led by Li Tieying, a central committee member and the son of Li Weihan who was a communist signatory to the agreement which incorporated Tibet into the People's Republic on May 23, 1951.

He was accompanied by Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, a Tibetan signatory to the document, who is widely regarded



as a traitor by independence activists. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, now in exile in India, has rejected the agreement.

Any hope of a negotiated solution to the problem of Tibet appears to be unlikely, at least for the present, in view of the hardening Chinese line since the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989. Pressure is on Peking after the meeting between President Bush and the Tibetan leader last month. This came against the background of China's desire to renew its most favoured nation trading status with the United States. A decision on that issue must be taken early next month.

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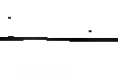
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كسوا من الأمل

Widow poised to lead the world's biggest democracy

Schneider Rapid Express not available in NL, Ireland. Free delivery to Mainland addresses only.

One bird table they don't display in the pet shops.

Breed of bird	Number imported	Dead on arrival or died in quarantine	Mortality rate	Breed of bird	Number imported	Dead on arrival or died in quarantine	Mortality rate	Breed of bird	Number imported	Dead on arrival or died in quarantine	Mortality rate
 Inca Tern	20	18	90%	 Double-Barred Finch	12	6	50%	 Yellow-Billed Hornbill	1	1	100%
 Common Bullfinch	5	5	100%	 Chestnut-Flanked White-Eye	240	112	46%	 Barbet	40	13	32%
 Oriental White-eye	1048	356	33%	 Rufous-Collared Sparrow	51	13	25%	 Hawk-Headed Parrot	30	11	36%
 Fire-Capped Tit	116	85	73%	 Flycatcher	9	5	55%	 Peach-Faced Love-Bird	398	63	15%
 Pied Stonechat	6	2	33%	 Superb Starling	224	81	36%	 Chestnut-Tailed Minia	30	8	26%
 White-Bellied Yuhina	7	5	71%	 Black-Cheeked Waxbill	202	102	50%	 Red-Fronted Parakeet	70	20	28%
 Sunbird Unidentified sp.	111	52	46%	 Red-Tailed Minia	60	24	40%	 Striated Bulbul	173	45	26%
 Common Wattle-Eye	8	4	50%	 Purple Grenadier Waxbill	625	218	34%	 Gouldian Finch	179	28	15%
 Pygmy Kingfisher	23	14	60%	 Blue and White Flycatcher	11	3	27%	 Broadbill	7	2	28%
 Orange-Winged Amazon	1246	376	30%	 Parrot-Billed Seed-Eater	90	30	33%	 Hill Myna	1038	190	18%
 Yellow-Cheeked Tit	28	21	75%	 Blue-Crowned Hanging Parrot	80	19	23%	 Black-Headed Oriole	8	2	25%
 Yellow-Bellied Tit	55	30	54%	 Green-Winged Pytilia	718	278	38%	 Java Sparrow	1331	302	22%
 Peter's Twin-Spot	412	162	39%	 African Golden Weaver	258	99	38%	 White-Rumped Shama	36	6	16%
 Monk Parakeet	154	122	79%	 Waxbill Unidentified sp.	348	163	46%	 Starling	239	41	17%
 Redstart	32	12	37%	 Honeycreeper Unidentified sp.	35	11	31%	 Yellow-Crowned Amazon	216	44	20%
 Common Go-Away Bird	5	3	60%	 Woodpecker	1	1	100%	 Crimson Rosella	213	39	18%
 Lavender Waxbill	1483	470	31%	 Pallas' Rosefinch	19	12	63%	 Plumbeous Redstart	12	2	16%
 Masked Grass-Finch	14	9	64%	 Blue-Winged Minia	41	7	17%	 Mealy Amazon	52	10	19%
 Dusky Parrot	10	10	100%	 Lesser Flamingo	18	3	16%	 Great-Billed Parrot	73	16	21%
 Heck's Grass-Finch	61	32	52%	 Black-Faced Decnis	31	6	19%	 Humming-bird Unidentified sp.	157	53	33%
 Red-Flanked Lorikeet	129	64	49%	 Fairy Lorikeet	26	5	19%	 Red-Billed Waxbill	1310	313	23%
 Red-Headed Parrot-Finch	10	7	70%	 Abyssinian Roller	7	3	42%	 Peruvian Thick-Knee	13	3	23%
 Yellow-Bellied Waxbill	566	257	45%	 Red-Billed Hornbill	41	12	29%	 Green-Rumped Parrotlet	40	10	25%
 Scarlet Minivet	2	2	100%	 Green-Backed Twin-Spot	246	68	27%	 Maggie Robin	35	6	17%
 Black-Capped Stila	78	35	44%	 Silver-Eared Mesia	782	208	26%	 Dollar Bird	1	1	100%

OUR TABLE IS BASED ON THE MAFF BIRD MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR 1989.

هكذا من الأصل

ble
play
ops.

Every year at least four million wild birds are captured for the European pet trade.

Three-quarters of them never make it into a cage. They die in their thousands at every stage of their journey.

The birds in our table reflect only the latest 'dead on arrival' and 'died in quarantine' figures in Britain.

They are a national disgrace but not peculiar to this country.

What is peculiar is that we allow such a business to continue.

Recently the RSPCA commissioned the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) to prepare a report on the trade in wild and exotic birds. Their findings were the stuff of nightmares.

Ten facts to keep you awake at night.

1. In Argentina, infant parrots are snatched from their nests.

150-year-old trees are felled to get at the birds, destroying the nesting sites forever.

2. In Senegal they commonly use nets to trap the birds.

A decoy bird, its wing-tips hacked off with a machete, is left to flutter helplessly by the net.

Its presence attracts the next cash crop.

3. To help young parrots survive the journey from Argentina to Europe they are force-fed.

A mixture of maize and water is jammed down their throats using a squeeze bottle.

The EIA have footage of dealers banging the heads of choking birds hoping to clear the blockage in the windpipe.

If they fail, the birds are thrown into the trash can.

4. Cynical dealers are known to push a hot wire down a parrot's throat to puncture its gullet.

The bird will die a slow and painful death but not before its new owner becomes attached to it.

No wonder Argentinian traders are sure of repeat business.

5. If the birds survive their capture they are packed in crates for the journey to holding areas near the airport.

This can take several days in sweltering heat and many birds die.

The EIA followed one truck where dead birds were thrown out

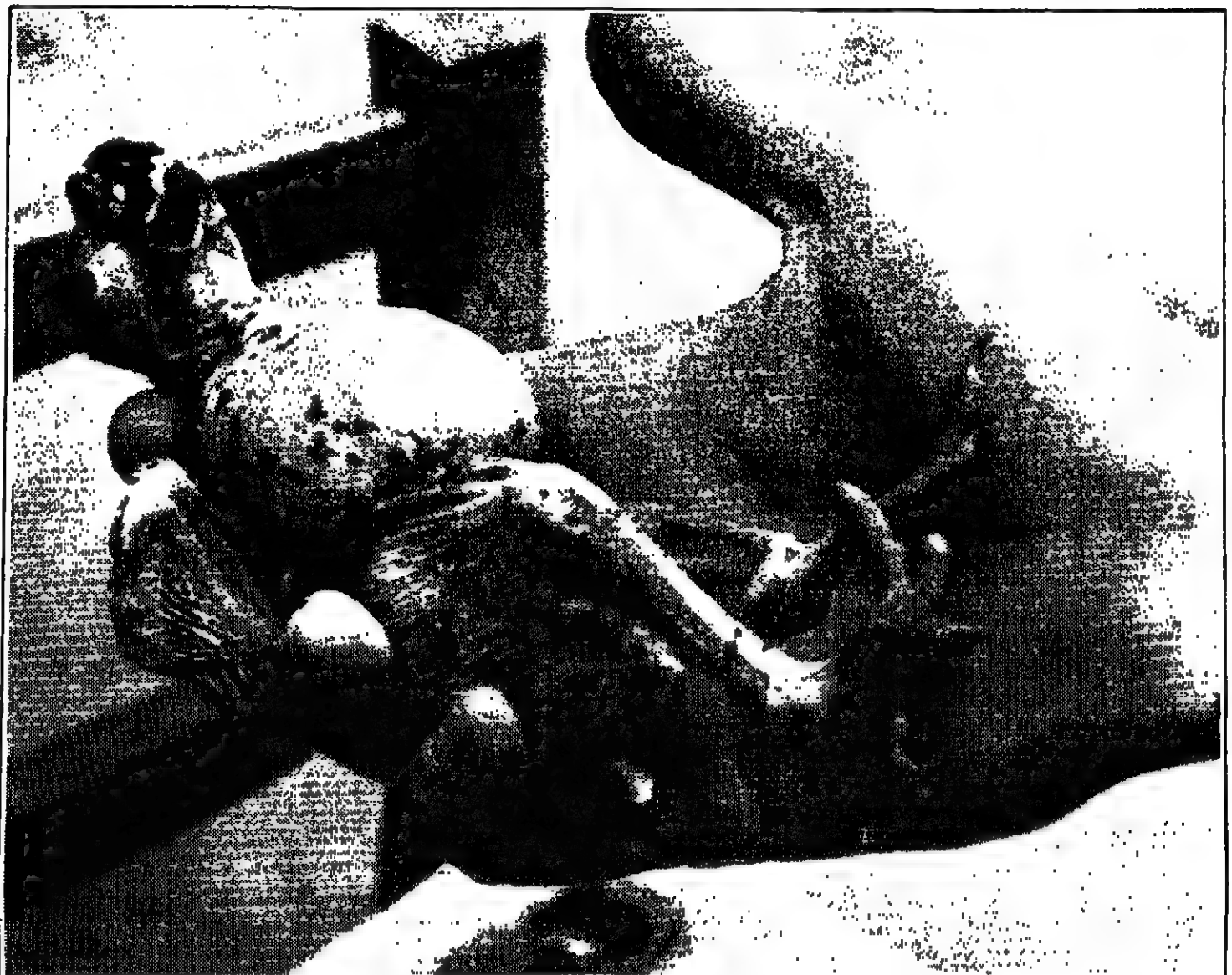
onto the roadside leaving, literally, a trail of death.

6. Waiting for their flight, the birds often lack food and water.

Thousands of them perish in these squalid conditions.

Disease is rampant and the young, stressed birds are very vulnerable.

(They are also expendable. At this stage of the marketing chain the exporter has paid just 75p for a parakeet that will sell for £60-£80 in Britain.)



Force-fed with maize and water this infant parrot choked to death.

7. Once on the plane their troubles, if anything, get worse.

Bad packing and dehydration are commonplace.

Crates intended for fifty birds may contain two hundred.

While you sip your wine in the cabin, hundreds of birds can be dying in the hold below.

8. In quarantine the birds continue to die. Disease and trauma are the common killers at this stage.

Our table is based on the MAFF Bird Mortality Statistics for 1989.

There is no reason to believe the 1990 figures will be any better.

9. Even if a wild bird does make it to a pet shop cage there is a good chance that it will die prematurely from disease or shock.

Their diseases can be infectious, too.

Experts have linked cases of human pneumonia to the bird disease psitticosis.

10. One final nightmare statistic. The sum total of all this cruelty is that three wild birds die for every one that makes it to the pet shop.

When you buy a caged wild bird you're paying for three corpses, too.

What can you do?

The RSPCA and the EIA want a complete ban on the wild bird trade.

Millions of wild birds are being killed simply to supply pet shops in Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

It's a cruel trade that is making some people very rich. (A pair of Hyacinth Macaws, for example, can sell for £25,000 in Europe.)

It is also making some people very angry.

Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay have banned the trade in wild birds.

110 countries have signed a convention to limit the trade in endangered species.

But these initiatives are not enough.

Nothing less than a total ban will be effective.

Ruthless dealers find it easy to avoid restrictions and licensing schemes.

We need to put our case to the European Commissioner for the Environment and we need your assistance.

Ring 0800 400 478 and we will send you a free action pack that shows you how to help in this campaign.

Do it soon.

If ever our feathered friends needed friendship, it's now.



Ban the trade, save the birds.

West cool on Gorbachev attending G7 talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

SENIOR American and European officials have dismissed as a "non starter" the idea of inviting President Gorbachev to the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations' economic summit in London in July in the absence of any radical economic reform in the Soviet Union.

The chances of a superpower summit in Moscow next month also hung in the balance yesterday after American and Soviet negotiators failed to break a protracted deadlock over arms control during two days of top-level talks in Washington. President Bush insisted, however, that there had been "some progress" and the talks were extended into yesterday.

The one positive development this week has been the arrival of a delegation of six Soviet economists at Harvard University to hammer out a radical economic reform plan, dubbed "the grand bargain", under which the Soviet Union would receive increasingly large infusions of Western aid as it moved in pre-

determined steps towards a market economy and genuine democracy. The team, led by Grigory Yavlinsky, co-author of the radical "500 Days" reform plan that Mr Gorbachev rejected last year, has the support of both the Soviet leader and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

It is because of Moscow's failure to implement tough economic reforms that leaders of the G7 nations have gone cold on the idea, first mooted last summer, of inviting Mr Gorbachev to London. No final decision has yet been taken, but one American official quoted in *The New York Times* yesterday called the idea a "non-starter", primarily because to invite Mr Gorbachev would put him "in the grandstand position of asking for money and puts pressure on us to respond". A European diplomat said yesterday that inviting Mr Gorbachev might well "arouse expectations which the G7 would be unable to fulfil".

Mr Gorbachev yesterday confirmed his wish to attend the summit, saying it was vital that Moscow be given the chance to present its views. He issued a thinly veiled warning that the G7 countries would suffer if they refused to bail out his country's economy. Mr Gorbachev, clearly keen to save face and avoid appearing to beg for economic aid, presented his interest in coming to London as an offer to co-operate in tackling common global problems.

But he also suggested that the Soviet Union's dire condition would itself become a world problem unless the West offered assistance. "The Soviet Union in its present form is one of the solid foundations on which the world order rests. If it is taken away, we will not be responsible for the consequences," he said.

A superpower summit depends on resolution of a dispute over apparent Soviet violations of the Convention on the Reduction of Forces in Europe treaty. General Mikhail Moiseyev, the Soviet chief of staff, has been in Washington this week but American officials said he failed to offer any significant concessions during meetings on Monday and Tuesday. Further talks were scheduled yesterday. The dispute is holding up not just the summit, but also the strategic arms reduction treaty cutting nuclear arsenals.

Mr Bush has stalled over Mr Gorbachev's appeal for an additional \$1.5 billion (\$867 million) in food credits, partly, say observers, to sustain pressure to settle these arms control issues. Perhaps for the same reason, he has also reacted cautiously to this week's passage of the Soviet free emigration bill, declining to give the Soviet Union preferential trading status until the legislation has been studied.



Pointing the finger: rivals to Boris Yeltsin for the post of Russian president stating their cases in the federal congress in Moscow yesterday. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, left, wants the June 12 election postponed, while Lieutenant-General Albert Maklakov condemns the Yeltsin reforms

Flamboyant ex-minister starts Russian campaign

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

VADIM Bakatin, former interior minister of the Soviet Union, long-time Communist party functionary and trained engineer, yesterday launched his campaign for the presidency of the Russian Federation with all the fast-talking bravado of an American presidential hopeful. He even tried to cover up the inadequacies of his running mate, Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, by rushing to answer his questions as well.

Unfazed by the television lights and crush of reporters, Mr Bakatin took to political

campaigning as if to the manner born. "No question is off limits," he said, grabbing a question addressed to Mr Abdulatipov. "That episode is all in the past - and what is pluralism anyway if you can't criticise other people when you sincerely believe they are wrong?" He was referring to the fact that Mr Abdulatipov had signed a denunciation of Boris Yeltsin earlier this year. "Consensus" is what Mr Bakatin's election programme is all about, though he denied that he was the candidate of President Gorbachev whose theme word is also "consensus".

He advocates a "round table", but only as a consultative body, not to take over the country.

Desperately trying to shed the Gorbachev association, Mr Bakatin said he had differed with the president on many decisions: the economic blockade of Lithuania (but, interestingly, he did not mention the killings); and the ban on demonstrations in Moscow which brought the army to the streets in March. He said he is "not backed by any group or organisation. I represent the interests of ordinary hard-working people."

As well as seeking "consensus" and looking after the interests of ordinary people, the eligible Mr Bakatin presented himself as the supporter of all manner of fashionable causes: women, the environment, human rights, the late Andrei Sakharov, and education.

So long as he keeps his 20 years or more as a party official well down his curriculum vitae, Mr Bakatin's rugged good looks and shock of sandy hair could take him far. He projects an un-Russian image of energy, competence and efficiency, with an engaging dash of humour. His other chief advantage is that he is neither Boris Yeltsin, with his sometimes excessive bombast, nor Nikolai Ryshkov, failed prime minister and candidate of the Communist party.

● MOSCOW: In a move which could have serious consequences for the Baltic region and beyond, an assembly of Lithuanian Polish deputies was yesterday evening on the verge of demanding a Polish autonomous region in the republic (Anatol Lieven writes). Lithuanian nationalists believe this could be a first step towards secession.

President Vytautas Landsbergis was hissed and booed when he spoke to the meeting, in Minsk, a Polish village near the Belorussian border. He told the delegates that they risked serving the interests of the Kremlin by dividing Lithuania.



Cresson: faces tough time getting bills passed

Cresson wades in to tough debut

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

EDITH Cresson underwent her baptism of fire yesterday as France's new prime minister, when she set out the new Socialist government's programme before a packed and expectant National Assembly.

The opposition made it clear that Mme Cresson, like her predecessor Michel Rocard, can expect difficulties in getting important legislation through in the absence of an absolute majority. In a briskly delivered 40-minute address, Mme Cresson emphasised that her chief objective is to secure a strong and prosperous France ahead of the 1992 European single market.

"We must be ready to take our place in the front rank of the construction of Europe," she declared, conceding, to sarcastic laughter from the opposition, that the economy is going through a "difficult" phase. To turn it round would involve putting a lot of muscle into the task of regenerating industry and creating much-needed new jobs.

Her debut coincided with a march through Paris by police officers demanding a hefty wage increase. With the indus-



just Paul McCartney. During Mr Walesa's recent visit to Britain, presidential advisers began negotiations with the former Beatle. The new political class of Poland, the Solidarity generation, are children of the 1960s and know all the Beatles' numbers. A Warsaw street has been named after John Lennon and a kindergarten in Caciow is dedicated to McCartney.

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Joking apart at Lech's court

President Walesa of Poland's quiet but vehement rivalry with President Havel of Czechoslovakia has awakened his previously well-buried interest in pop music. Mr Havel openly admires Frank Zappa, the former rock star who once stuffed a live rat down his trousers. Mr Walesa's only brush with popular Western culture was a visit several years ago to his Gdansk home by Elton John, who was sporting a diamond earring.

Now the time has come for something more wholesome: no rats, no earrings,

Polish pop star of the 1970s and Solidarity activist of the 1980s, as his liaison with the cultural world - not perhaps encouraging for Poland's near-bankrupt film studios, ballet companies and opera houses. Mr Walesa likes a good, robust laugh. Political adviser Stanislaw Kozminski, who has become the court jester of the Belvedere Palace. Only he can shock Mr Walesa to his face, mimicking the former dictator.



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But somehow Mr Walesa does not have the light touch of his Czechoslovak counterpart: it is difficult, for instance, to imagine Mick Jagger popping in for lunch. Mr Walesa has just appointed Piotr Szczepanik, a former

Workers protest in Poland over pay

Warsaw - Solidarity workers, chanting angrily through the streets of Polish cities, turned on their own government and threatened an end to wage controls and the sacking of Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister (Roger Boyes writes).

Factories closed for two hours, or the whole of the morning shift, in Upper Silesia and southern Poland. In Warsaw, some 4,000 workers, drawn from every important factory in the capital, marched first to the parliament and then to the cabinet offices.

The vanguard of the rally showed its way past police trying to protect parliament and drove a wheelbarrow into the courtyard, shouting that they were going to grab the finance minister and physically dump him - a gesture that Solidarity used ten years ago against unpopular communist managers and politicians. Now their venom is directed at the Solidarity-affiliated government.

A similar rally was held in the textile city of Lodz and in many smaller towns. Workers from the Stachowice lorry factory continued an occupation strike, and coal mines shut for two hours.

Britain agrees to Tirana ties

LONDON - Britain and Albania have ended the longest rift in post-war European history and agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations. But Britain now has no money to set up an embassy in Tirana, and will probably use diplomats based in Belgrade (Michael Binyon writes).

Douglas Hogg, the junior minister at the Foreign Office, told the Commons in a written reply yesterday that Britain had accepted the proposals put forward by Muhamet Kapllani, the Albanian foreign minister, during his talks here two weeks ago.

Donna contracts

BERLIN - German companies will be given contracts to build new homes for Soviet troops being withdrawn from eastern Germany, Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, confirmed after protesting to Moscow over an earlier decision to award the first such contract to a Finnish-Turkish consortium.

Whaling plea

GENEVA - The World Wide Fund for Nature and Greenpeace called for an indefinite extension of the five-year moratorium on commercial whaling. The environmental groups accused Japan, Iceland and Norway of flouting the ban since it was established by the International Whaling Commission in 1986. (Reuters)

Ukraine vote

KIEV - Ukraine decided to hold a referendum on dropping all references to socialism from the republic's full name and flag. The 36 million voters of the Soviet Union's second most populous republic will also be consulted on whether to vest supreme power in the legislature or an executive president.

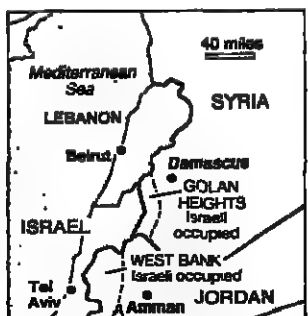
Israel condemns treaty by Syria and Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A NEW treaty signed yesterday between Syria and Lebanon threatened to prove a new source of conflict between Arabs and Jews in the region, with Israel comparing the Syrian position to Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. The accord comes shortly after James Baker, the American Secretary of State, ruled out a fifth Middle East peace shuttle.

The "Brotherhood, co-operation and co-operation treaty" between Syria and Lebanon confirmed Syria and its ruling Baath party as the outright winner in the struggle for influence in Lebanon that has been raging since the civil war began there in 1975. The right-wing Israeli government and Lebanese Christians have denounced the treaty as tantamount to the annexation of dismembered Lebanon, carried out while the West was well disposed towards Damascus because of its support for the anti-Iraq coalition during the Gulf war.

The treaty, signed in Damascus yesterday by the two leaders, President Hrawi and President Assad, called on the two governments to co-ordinate their economic, agri-



The view from Jerusalem was diametrically opposed and led to repeated reports in Beirut newspapers and on radio stations that Israel had sent some 4,000 troops and 50 tanks to beef up its force in the border enclave which it continues to occupy in southern Lebanon. The 440 square mile self-styled "security zone" is patrolled by the Israeli-controlled South Lebanon Army, a predominantly Christian force, and by about 1,000 Israelis. United Nations officials in the region yesterday played down the reports of Israeli sabre rattling.

The increase in tension followed the claim made in Jerusalem on Monday by Moshe Arens, the hawkish Israeli defence minister, that the treaty amounted to a virtual Syrian takeover. Mr Arens said Israel had relayed its concern to America, which in recent months has shown a tacit understanding for Syria's policy in Lebanon.

● BEIRUT: The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Christians denounced the treaty, saying it would bring his country under Syrian domination. "Any treaty signed by unequal parties is just an imposed treaty by one party on the other," the Maronite Patriarch, Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, said.

Kurdish children battle against odds to survive

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ZAKHO

KURDISH children being admitted to Zakho general hospital in northern Iraq are so dehydrated and devoid of flesh that the team of doctors treating them must inject fluids directly into their bone marrow. Their tragedy is that their suffering is unnecessary, according to Ron Waldman, a medical epidemiologist who advises the American disaster assistance relief team.

The death rate at the Cukurca camp in Turkey, some 40 miles east of Zakho, was, at its worst, 1.6 per thousand every day. According to Médecins sans Frontières, the French medical charity, that rate has now fallen to 0.2 per thousand, still twice as many as normal.

Cukurca remains the largest of the mountain encampments to which Kurdish refugees fled at the beginning of April. Some 80,000 of them are still there, most of them waiting to return to the Iraqi provincial capital of Dahuk.

"The figures for the camps look under control, but they are not," said Commander Chris Kershaw, a naval surgeon in support of the Commando Logistic Regiment. "In their clothes the children look healthy enough, but under-

neath they are like sticks." Even if they survive, many children aged under two may for the rest of their lives have to fight the effects of developmental arrest by malnutrition and dehydration. At the field dressing station in Sirenak, the team of doctors releases some 40 children a week, but to an uncertain fate.

Many children weakened by diarrhoea and malnutrition are prone to a fatal cycle of infection, recovery and re-infection.

Surgeon Commander Alastair Malone recites a catalogue of diseases from typhus to cholera, none of which have yet reached epidemic proportions. But doctors in camps throughout the region are increasingly concerned about the outbreak of a blood infection for which there seems no obvious cure. Because of a tell-tale rash on the children's abdomens, doctors at Sirenak think the ailment may be the tick-borne Congo Crimean haemorrhagic fever.

What will save the lives of thousands of Kurdish children is not specialised medicine but practical programmes to feed and rehydrate them in the way-stations. "Malnutrition is

a disease for which there is a medicine - food," Dr Waldman said. The problem is not lack of food but that the children are too weak or too ill to eat and must be admitted to therapeutic feeding centres.

For the allied forces, providing security at gunpoint is only part of their mission. For once it is the logistics, the people who move the food, prepare the vehicles and set up the hospitals who are the real heroes.

Amid all the suffering, the paradox is that there have probably never been so many qualified medical personnel in northern Iraq. People come to Zakho and other centres from a long way off in search of cures for long-standing illnesses or seeking specialised drugs. Ultimately, however, Zakho hospital will be handed back to the Iraqi staff still working there.

For those trying to heal the people of Iraq, the decision to withdraw will be no easier to make than the military order to pull out. Meanwhile in the children's ward in Zakho hospital an incubator is now inhabited by a tiny but healthy baby boy born two months prematurely. "In Europe," his doctor said, "he would live."

Hezbollah picks hardline leader

FROM AM JAMR IN BEIRUT

HEZBOLLAH, the pro-Iranian Lebanese Shia Muslim group alleged to be holding 12 Western hostages, has elected a hardliner as its new secretary-general. It was announced yesterday.

Sheikh Abbas Mouawad, who led the anti-Israeli Islamic Resistance Movement, Hezbollah's political arm, replaced Sheikh Selhi Tabbay, who had held the position since 1989. Sheikh Ibrahim al-Amia, another hardliner, was elected deputy secretary-general. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah will handle financial affairs.

The left-wing Islamist newspaper, *al-Safir*, described the secret election as "an indication of moderation and détente". But the independent *al-Nahar* said the change confirmed the group's hardline stand against Israel and foreshadowed a surge of Muslim fundamentalist attacks against the Jewish state.

Sheikh Mouawad, aged 38, said that the issue of the foreign hostages was linked to the release by Israel of Arab and Lebanese prisoners. "When America pressures Israel into doing so, the issue will be resolved," he said in an interview. He accused President Bush of deliberately

refusing to deal with the matter in order to raise it whenever he wanted to.

Despite repeated denials by Hezbollah that it is holding foreign hostages, sources here believe that groups operating under its umbrella are responsible for the detention of six Americans, three Britons, two West Germans and an Italian.

In another development Israel yesterday welcomed an offer from a ranking Shia Muslim clergyman for a comprehensive prisoner swap. Uri Lishchinsky, co-ordinator of Israel's policy in Lebanon, said the offer by Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, who heads the Shia Islamic Council, was an "encouraging sign in the right direction".

Sheikh Shamseddine said last week: "Let us work out an ethical humanitarian package deal through the International Committee of the Red Cross to free them all." He added: "I am positive it will bring about the release of the Western hostages." Seven Israeli servicemen have been missing in Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion of its neighbour. They are believed to be held by Shia factions including Hezbollah, Palestinian guerrilla groups and Syria.

Staying well among the sick and starving

How aid workers in disaster zones resist the diseases they treat.

Liz Gill reports

As a Unicef consultant, Don Caston has spent six months a year for the past 22 years travelling the world, often in the wake of war and natural catastrophe, teaching the newly disabled how to help themselves. His "survival kit" can be packed into a bag a cubic foot in size and his strategies summed up in a few golden rules.

"Once you have had hepatitis you never believe anyone who tells you the water is OK." His kit includes a multi-voltage gadget with a plug for boiling water — "and where there is no power you light a fire" — along with basic medicines, soap, concentrated disinfectant and mouthwash, hypodermic needles and syringes and garlic capsules to help prevent stomach upsets. He buries waste, tries to avoid breathing other people's breath, particularly where disease is rife, and scorns native herbal remedies or local doctors. "They often know a damned sight more about something like cholera than British doctors who might see two cases in a lifetime."

He does not eat fish more than 30 miles from the sea, is wary of meat that has lain in the sun, and tries to ensure food is cooked at correct temperatures. "Otherwise I try to eat what the locals do. I was rather partial to iguana," Mr Caston says. "But I always try to have something in my stomach, you can catch all kinds of things when you are hungry."

Keeping fit and healthy is a real concern for aid workers, whether they are dealing with an emergency in Bangladesh or long-term relief efforts in the African famine. As Paul Quirk, a divisional officer with the London Fire Brigade, says: "There is no point in going halfway round the world to get sick yourself."

Mr Quirk has been a member of the brigade's disaster relief team on three occasions: the Mexico, El Salvador and Armenia earthquakes. "The scenes are of total devastation. You cannot, therefore, go in and be a burden on that society; you cannot take what little they have left. You cannot take a lot of stuff in with you because that space is needed for vital supplies. You become a bit of an Ardal Dodge, living off what you can find."

"At the same time you have to be careful about hygiene, about how you handle bodies, about treating them. It's not an immediate thing, it's a long-term thing. Teams like Mr Quirk's go for periods of two or three weeks. It is easier to



Helping hand: A Red Cross nurse working in southern Sudan. Aid workers must also guard their own health

make do when you know you are coming out," he says. "You may even come back leaner and fitter."

Longer stays require a different approach. Tony Bullard, an emergency support engineer for Oxfam, spent six months in the Ogaden desert, Ethiopia, setting up a water supply for the Hartisheik camp. He and his colleagues lived in the agency's compound 70 kilometres away, driving in daily but returning at night to a bed and a decent meal. "It is very important to take care of yourself," he says. "You can only help if you are fit enough to do so, otherwise you are ineffective."

He believes it is also important to have books and music, and to take a day off "to drive to another town for a beer". This ability to relax can be essential to maintaining well-being, according to Scholastica Kinney, a Tanzanian representative for Unicef. "If you have the knack of being able to sleep anywhere, in a bumpy truck or on the floor, that is a real jewel."

Mr Quirk says that keeping well is not an easy task, especially for westerners who do not have the same kind of immunity to tropical diseases. I

'Once you have had hepatitis you never believe anyone who tells you the water is OK'

have known two die from malaria."

Much can be done beforehand. Voluntary Service Overseas, for instance, gives each of its 1,300 volunteers a lecture on hygiene and other precautions as well as a book on travellers' health and updated leaflets on potential hazards such as AIDS, malaria and rabies. Everyone has four basic injections for TB, tetanus, typhoid and polio, plus whatever is appropriate for their destination.

Back is given a first aid kit and multi-vitamins where necessary, allocated a doctor in the field, and covered by medical insurance including emergency repatriation: about 5 per cent have to be repatriated every year, but

half of those return after treatment.

Volunteers are aged from 22 to 70, and often the older groups fare best. "They tend to be a hardy lot with a good deal of common sense," says Dr Marianne Janosi, VSO's medical adviser. "But no one can prevent illness entirely. Nearly everyone gets one or two attacks of diarrhoea."

In a recent survey of 212 missionaries who had worked mostly in Africa, Dr Roger Peppiat, a former medical adviser to the Methodist church's overseas division, found the most common complaints were malaria and diarrhoea, followed by anxiety and depression. Ten had had to return home. "But in spite of these figures the majority are very healthy — 90 per cent had no major problems," Dr Peppiat says.

As well as hepatitis, Mr Caston suffered recurring bouts of malaria some years ago. At 71, however, he considers himself in good shape. His wife Dorothy, who often goes with him, is, he says, even more robust. "I am sure it is because the work is so rewarding."

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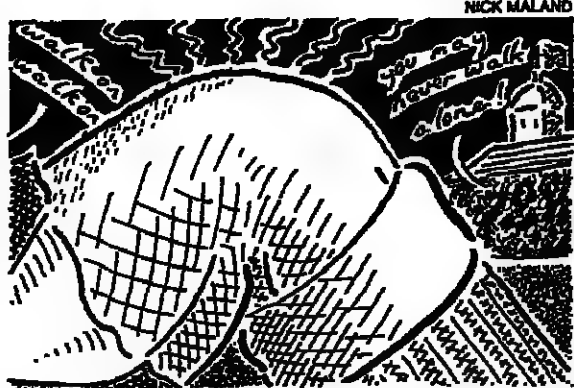
MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Spittford

Knotty knee problem

PAUL Gascoigne ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament in front of a crowd of 80,000 at Wembley, but injuries to the knee also affect lesser mortals. Every spring hundreds more skiers join those already attending knee clinics after falling down stairs, playing park football or being involved in a road accident.

Although a dog or other quadruped may limp along on three legs, in a biped integrity of the knee is of pivotal importance. Unfortunately the importance of the joint is equalled by its potential instability.

The stability of a knee joint is maintained by the ligaments, tough straps which hold the tibia (the leg bone) and the femur (the thigh bone) together. The medial and lateral ligaments split the inner and outer sides of the knee joint. When they are torn, the medial more often than the lateral, they can be comparatively easy to cobble together, and if the shock-absorbing cartilage in the knee has been damaged it can be dealt with at the same time.



The cruciate ligaments, the two ligaments buried inside the joint, present greater problems. Even Swedish orthopaedic surgeons, who have done as much research as anybody, cannot decide if patients do better with surgery — usually a tendon graft — after they have been torn, or if conservative treatment with a heavy emphasis on rehabilitation exercises, so that powerful muscles compensate for any residual instability, is just as effective.

If a top-class athlete is injured most surgeons seem to operate, but if the casu-

ality is Joe Bloggs, who may perhaps only have to be strong enough to hop on the bus, conservative treatment may be better. In either case it seems preferable to tear, as Gascoigne did, the anterior rather than posterior cruciate ligament; it makes the surgery technically easier, and the joint seems more stable after treatment. Clare Marx, an orthopaedic surgeon at St Mary's hospital, London, says that in her experience nine out of ten players return to the games field. Motivation is all-important — driving ambition usually helps them to regain their former prowess.

Colds defeat child vaccine

THE campaign to have children inoculated with MMR against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles) has been a success. Parents have been stirred by memories of children miserable with measles, the common, but exaggerated, male fear that post-adolescent mumps invariably leads to agonising orchitis (and infertility); and the dread of having a child damaged by an attack of rubella in pregnancy.

Recent research reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that in one small but important respect, however, the government's advice on vaccination may have to be reviewed. Contrary to current teaching, the research showed that if a child has a cold, even if there is no temperature, the infection can nullify the effect of the vaccine.

The trial compared the antibody response in 47 babies with a cold to 51 well babies. Ten of the sniffing



children, as opposed to only one fit child, failed to develop antibodies to measles following the injection, and two of these ten also showed no immunity to mumps and rubella.

The research workers suggest that the cold virus induces the formation of interferon, which neutralises the vaccine. Although British experts are reluctant to change policy as the result of one experiment, a spokesman for Wellcome, which manufactures one of the most widely used vaccines, says: "We have always recommended that only fit children should be vaccinated. If I was convinced by a baby with a cold I would ask the mother to come back next week."

Aids and the heart

SIR William Osler, the Oxford physician often considered the father of modern medicine, said that so varied were the signs and symptoms of syphilis that they encompassed all medicine. Aids has replaced syphilis as the great dread but, as with syphilis, its study extends into most medical specialities. The traditional venerologist has been replaced by an academic doctor who understands the complexities of immunology and microbiology.

This month Dr Nicholas Boon of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, speaking on the effect of Aids on the heart, has warned that as the treatment of overwhelming opportunistic infections improves, the patients who survive them will live to confront another hazard, heart failure. In one in five cases the virus attacks the heart muscles, causing fatigue and breathlessness. Awareness of this complication and early treatment can prolong life.

A disillusioned doctor is hoping to become Britain's first NHS herbalist

Feverfew on prescription?

In 1987 Dr Anita Clay left the National Health Service in disgust over the "120-hour weeks with no time to care". After a couple of years spent travelling she became interested in herbal

medicine, and trained at the School of Herbal Medicine in Sussex. This week, at the National Institute of Medical Herbalists (NIMH) mans its display at the Chelsea Flower Show, Dr

Clay is putting her case for becoming Britain's first government-funded herbal medicine practitioner.

Dr Clay says medical herbalists "support the body's healing itself. We increase the circulation to remove toxins, and help with elimination. There are herbs which have antibiotic properties and they are much gentler than conventional antibiotics."

She sees patients at her home in Exeter as well as at the city's Complementary Health Centre and charges £25 for an initial consultation of an hour and 15 minutes, and £8-£10 for each additional half-hour visit.

But why should — and how could — a medical herbalist become part of the NHS? "My argument is that because I am conventionally trained, I could be used as a pilot study. After all, there are already GPs who can decide whether to treat conventionally or homoeopathically in consultation with their patients, and the government has backed homoeopathic hospitals," Dr Clay says.

A health department spokeswoman notes that "there were homoeopathic hospitals in existence when the NHS was set up, so homoeopathy has been within the health service from the start."

When the Consumers' Association surveyed in 1986 the popularity of various forms of complementary medicine in Britain, herbal medicine ranked fifth, behind osteopathy, homoeopathy, acupuncture and chiropractic. Three hundred and fifty medical herbalists, only "a handful" of them doctors, are represented by the NIMH. The General Council and Register of Herbalists accounts for about 200 more. "We take only graduates from the School of Herbal Medicine, which requires a four-year full-time or correspondence course or a one-year course for qualified doctors," says Mark Evans,

the president of the NIMH, who practices in Bath and Bristol. "All our members carry professional insurance, so you can claim against them if you need to, and they follow strict codes of practice."

Michael Endicott, the spokesman for the Institute of Complementary Medicine, says: "Although we carry NIMH's members we have not yet set up a herbal medicines section of our British register, because they do not accept the principle of external accreditation."

A herbalist can be someone who grows herbs and/or sells them — or, more rarely, mixes simple infusions or cosmetic herbal preparations. A medical herbalist, according to Mr Evans, is someone who has trained as a practitioner and who sees patients for assessment and treatment. "Few medical herbalists mix their own tinctures, partly because a licence would be required from Customs and Excise because of the alcohol used in them," Mr Evans says. "Herbal medicines have been going through the

licensing process for medicines over the past few years with some having been withdrawn. Anything that makes a medicinal claim has to have a product licence now, so that you can sell feverfew tablets, but if you claim they relieve migraines they need a licence."

Dr Clay regards herbal medicine as truly complementary to conventional medicine. "Ideally, one should combine different sorts of treatment. You could not have a herbal accident and emergency room — but there are things we can offer later."

She also believes it is cheaper to treat patients herbarially. "I would like the government to do the economics around my practice and compare it with a general GP practice."

Dr Clay says that the government should do the economics around my practice and compare it with a general GP practice.

Dr Clay says that the government should do the economics around my practice and compare it with a general GP practice.

VICTORIA MCKEE

New role for an old cancer treatment, page 33

self respect

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A classic case of the good having to fight with greed

Richard Morrison on the uphill battle facing a commercial rival to Radio 3

Distressing though it is to programme planners on the posher networks, listening to the radio is an impulse activity, usually linked arbitrarily to the mundane functions in life. I am washing the car, want pleasant classical music, twiddle the dial, find none, am angry with the BBC. This dreary sequence recurs weekly, most recently on Sunday at 8.45pm. Radio 1 was playing pop, 2 was hymns, Radio 3 was halfway through a three-hour live set of the most improving sort. Lord Searman was inquiring into policing on Radio 4 and something called *The Enlightenment: A Model for Despotism* graced Radio 5.

All very worthy, but not what I wanted. There was scant consolation in discovering from *Radio Times* that if I waited till nine, Alan Keith would be presenting *Your Hundred Best Tunes*. I wanted to wash the car at 8.45. My problem might be near a solution. Yesterday was the deadline set by Lord Chalfont's Radio Authority for bids for the new "non-pop" independent national radio licence, broadcasting on the FM wavelength favoured for its stereo capacity. A surprise late

Hotel" but not his 1961 "Are you lonesome tonight?". Domingo's "Nessun dorma" may be played; Pavarotti's may not.

What, though, are the chances of Classic FM? In other countries, commercial classical stations are both profitable and popular. New York's WQXR does not cover anything like the 800-year musical span of Radio 3, but 500,000 listeners tune to it, confident of finding congenial classical company, day or night. A British equivalent would be not so much a threat to Radio 3 as a complement. By offering listeners the option of mainstream classical music whenever they wish, it would leave Radio 3 free to pursue the "culture club of the airwaves" policy for which it will be attacked as long as it has a serious music monopoly. Listeners' choice would genuinely be increased.

But unfortunately, Lord Chalfont and his Radio Authority have miscalculated the terms. Worse, they have been greedy. Monstrous financial requirements for bidders must look daunting to all the bidders, but especially to anyone venturing into the untested waters of commercial classical broadcasting in Britain. To win the



Chalfont: miscalculated the financial terms

licence, the bidder must pay a £10,000 application fee, a £1 million licence fee collected by the Radio Authority (for heaven knows what purpose), and make a cash bid, which could be around £5 million paid annually to the Treasury, in addition to 4 per cent of all advertising and sponsorship revenues.

Then it must forfeit an estimated 15 per cent of revenue in copyright and royalty fees (which have just

been raised considerably for commercial stations). Add to all that approximately £4 million in transmission costs and a minimum of £3 million spent on marketing the station in its first year.

Clearly, the Radio Authority's conditions make life extremely difficult for any bidder, even the easiest of easy-listening stations. Indeed, there is no certainty that if an easy-listening bid won the national licence it would be profitable under these terms: advertising agencies have expressed doubts about the appeal of a station whose listeners are mostly of the big-band generation.

But if a classical commercial station wins, the Radio Authority's bizarre regulations spell years of uncertainty. At present, 2 per cent of all British advertising is spent on radio, and 2 per cent of all radio listeners tune to Radio 3. So a new commercial classical station would need to fight hard for enough listeners to make advertisers happy. Nevertheless, there is a serious contender prepared to do that, given a fair deal. The Radio Authority's deal is far from fair, and needs urgent adjustment. Meanwhile, I must continue to wash the car to the sound of a slowly dripping sponge.

Even if an easy-listening station wins, the regulations will ensure endless intellectual diversions. As things stand, it will be allowed to broadcast Elvis Presley's 1956 hit "Heartbreak

Will Gandhi's murder change Indian politics? Michael Binyon says it will soon be business as before

In place of reason, the bomb and the bullet



Victims: Mahatma Gandhi (1948), Kennedy (1963), Verwoerd (1966), King (1968), Rabin (1995), Sadat (1982)

Rajiv Gandhi is only the latest victim in a nation where the bomb and the bullet have wreaked havoc on political life since Mahatma Gandhi was shot down on January 30, 1948. Leaders of India's neighbourhood have also been killed: Solomon Bandaranaike, prime minister of Ceylon, was shot by Buddhist monks; Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh and his family were massacred in a military coup; General Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan was blown up in a plane. Assassination is so common in the subcontinent that it has tended to alter politics little. Dynasties continue, the turbulence subsides and the intractable problems soon close over the void left by the dead leader. Mrs Bandaranaike stepped into her husband's shoes; Rajiv Gandhi succeeded his mother. The troubled nations seem to confirm the observation about early 19th-century Russia made to Count Munster: "Every country has its own constitution: ours is absolutism."

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ism moderated by assassination." Brian Bailey, in the recently published *The Assassination File* (W.H. Allen), identifies five rough categories. First there is tyrannicide, when a despotic ruler is killed, ostensibly for the sake of his suffering people. The murderers of Caligula, the Nazi ruler of Czechoslovakia, Reinhard Heydrich, and Tsar Nicholas II would claim they struck for liberty.

Secondly there is assassination of a political rival. The most obvious example is Trotsky, struck on the head with an ice-pick, presumably on Stalin's order. Benigno Aquino, shot on

his arrival at Manila airport in 1983, was a clear challenger to President Marcos. Such assassinations tend to create martyrs and can rebound disastrously, as President Marcos found.

Thirdly, there is expedient assassination: disposing of a political embarrassment such as Thomas A. Becker or Rasputin, or, more recently, Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the Congo.

The fourth category, terrorist assassination, is perhaps the most prevalent. Victims include Aldo Moro, the former Italian prime minister kidnapped by the Red Brigades, and Anwar Sadat of

Egypt, shot by Muslim fundamentalists plotting a coup. Assassination bestrewn the recent history of Lebanon.

The fifth type is symbolic assassination: the attempt to kill an idea or retaliate against the figure perceived to be responsible for an injustice. Victims include Archduke Ferdinand and Martin Luther King.

James Earl Ray, Mr King's killer, also belongs to the final group: paranoid assassins. Such killers are often consumed by personal grievance or are mentally unbalanced. The parliamentary messenger who stabbed Hendrik

Verwoerd, the South African prime minister, was later declared insane. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot by his own nephew, who was furious that the monarch did not avenge the death of his brother. Nobody knows who killed Olof Palme, the former Swedish prime minister, nor the motive. The attempt on Ronald Reagan by John Hinckley, trying to win the attention of an actress, was clearly the result of a deranged mind.

To argue that assassination makes no difference to history is to indulge in unverifiable speculation. Countries with strong institutions survive shocks to their systems better than those dominated by strong personalities. The United States survived the death of John F. Kennedy; but who knows whether the Vietnam war would have been prosecuted in the same way if he had lived.

Had President Gorbachev or Mao Tse-tung been struck down in his first year of office, it is barely imaginable that the tumultuous events in China and the Soviet Union associated with their rule would have occurred.

Assassination is an attempt by a single individual to change the course of world events at a stroke. That is why assassins usually show so little remorse, and why, in an age of global television images, resort to such violence is likely to become increasingly common.

The Times Profile: Sonia Gandhi, thrust to the top in her moment of bereavement

India's reluctant heroine



Sonia Gandhi, the "foreign wife" who took to the sari and speaks better Hindi than Rajiv

household came to her naturally. "I did everything by stages," she said. "I wore a sari a few times, then more and more. Now I can hardly believe I once wore skirts and jeans."

Rajiv Gandhi's romance with the young girl, a plumber's daughter from a small town in northern Italy, had all the ingredients of a modern fairy tale. When the engagement was announced, in 1967, the Italian popular press lost no time in dubbing Sonia Maino, then only 19, "the Cinderella of Orbasano".

Sonia and Rajiv had first met at Cambridge in 1966. Rajiv was studying engineering and Sonia was studying languages with a view

to a career as an interpreter. It was some time before she realised that he was in fact heir to one of India's most important and powerful families. She recalled their immediate attraction: "I found an inner beauty in him. He was different from the others, deeper and wiser."

At first her family hesitated over their marriage, overruled by Gandhi's background. But resistance broke down after Indira Gandhi met Sonia while on an official visit to London. The wedding was a non-religious ceremony but with many traditional Indian trappings. The bride wore a wedding costume from the Kashmir region, homeland of the Nehru clan. But in an interview with the Hindi magazine *Dharmayug* she admitted that she had been homesick for Italy.

"Yes," she said, "in the beginning

I used to feel it a lot. But then I took a decision. I could not keep both countries. So until I established deep roots here, and until I identified fully with my family here I decided to keep myself cut off from my parental home. Only when I felt that my roots were firmly planted here did I start meeting even my Italian relatives here."

She said she had no misgivings when she came to live in India. "When one is in love, that love gives a person an extraordinary strength of mind. This strength wards off any fears. I wanted Rajiv, and Rajiv is my greatest security."

She was always reluctant to see Rajiv enter politics. She was quoted as saying she would rather see her children become beggars

than politicians. It also meant that she and her two children, Rahul and Priyanka, became targets for terrorism. She lived in constant fear that an assassin could penetrate the human shield of 1,400 security guards who protected her husband day and night.

When Mrs Gandhi was fatally shot by Sikh members of her bodyguard, it was Sonia who cradled her in the back of a car bound for the hospital crying out "Mummy, mummy". In 1987 she witnessed a member of a Sri Lankan guard of honour swing his rifle butt at Rajiv's head. Certainly, when he dispensed with his security men to meet the people on the stump during this election campaign she must have realised the terrible risks he was taking.

Mrs Gandhi accompanied her husband several times during the election campaign in his Uttar Pradesh constituency of Amethi, but normally she did not often travel with him. She has a small circle of friends and is a connoisseur of Indian art, working twice a week at the museum of modern art restoring paintings.

She may now join a line of South Asian women leaders: Mrs Bandaranaike in Sri Lanka, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, Begum Khaleda Zia in Bangladesh, her own mother-in-law in India. They all came to their jobs through their fathers or husbands. Not one of them is a stranger to political violence.

But Sonia Gandhi's selection as leader of Congress (I) is different: she may have acquired a certain Indian-ness but she remains decidedly foreign. She has no political experience, aside from watching its excesses at close hand for many years. If she accepts the job, this will be India's most stunning political gamble. And all because of Sonia Gandhi's name, even though foreign blood flows through her veins.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I was at a dinner party. The talk was of *The Darling Buds of May*. Everyone started chanting "Perfick" and fell about with the hilarity of it all. "I'm afraid," I said, "that I failed to see a single episode." All eyes turned to me, and those eyes were filled with admiration.

"I'll tell you what I never saw," said someone at the other end of the table, no doubt sensing the loss of his power base. "I never saw *Twin Peaks*." The admiring eyes swung in his direction. I busily thought of something else I hadn't seen. "Well, I might have seen one or two episodes of *Twin Peaks*," I said, "but for some reason or another I have never seen *Louise*. Never seen it at all."

Everyone looked blank. "What's *Louise*?" two of them said at once. I explained that it was very popular, screened on Sunday nights, about an antique dealer in East Anglia, with that actor who looks a bit like Alvin Stardust. I had never seen *Louise*, but none of the others had even heard of it. All the kudos I had gained by not having watched *The Darling Buds of May* speedily drained away.

The British love to laugh at judges who ask "What is a Gazza?", yet the laughter is tinged with admiration. We have a soft spot for ignorance. It now seems that Mr Major is beginning to understand that the fewer C-levels he can lay claim to, the more he will be loved. I have a friend whose parents, both hippies, spent their lives travelling. This meant that she never went to school. She has

rarely found any difficulty getting a job: employers recognise her boast as far superior to any number of A-levels.

Non-achievement, particularly large-scale non-achievement, is somehow always more memorable than achievement. If ever I mention that I have never been to America, I can be sure to draw gasps of astonishment. But if I then mention that I have spent time in China, a look of the most awful anxiety spreads across everyone's face, a look which begs: "Oh, but whatever you do, please don't tell us about it."

I have a friend who boasts of never having eaten a beefburger, and my youngest brother is rather proud that he has never tried celery. The people I know who have never learnt to drive seem strangely pleased with themselves, viewing it less as a drawback than as an attainment, an emblem of their purity in an impure world.

There are, of course, limits to the charm of non-achievement. At the first hint of knowledge, the appeal evaporates. Peter Mayle has written two books, *A Year in Provence* and *Toujours Provence*, which are less about living in Provence than about leaving England behind.

They affect to portray an innocent, unworldly life in France, but they should really be renamed *A Year Not in England* and *Jamais Angletiere*, for the author is mainly concerned with relaying his sense of pride in not staying in England, in not watching English television, in not seeing English friends, and in arguing with builders in French,

not English. Provence is merely a backdrop against which his misanthropy can masquerade as charm.

But true unworldliness is a thing to treasure. Its patron saint must surely be Sir George Rereby Sirwell, father of Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell. Sir George took pride in ignoring the modern world, offering to pay his sons' Eton school fees with pigs and potatoes and, in the 1930s, proposing an artists' hall to which he intended to invite Renoir, Degas and Rodin.

Sir George had particular trouble with modern slang. After Osbert had begun to pepper his conversation with the term "blotto", Sir George finally asked him what on earth it meant. "Very tired," came the reply. Soon afterwards, Sir George suggested to two distinguished guests that they take a rest after lunch "as you both seem quite blotto".

He was once furious with an acquaintance who, he claimed, had promised Sir George his jewellery but had failed to deliver. It later emerged that the acquaintance had said: "I'll give you a ring on Thursday."

Happily, Sacheverell inherited some of his father's delightful vagueness. In the mid-1980s, halfway through the Thatcher years, he asked Laurence Myott, who was engaged in painting his portrait, how Mr Atlee's government was shaping up. Next to which my own claim of ignorance about *The Darling Buds of May* seems pitifully meagre.

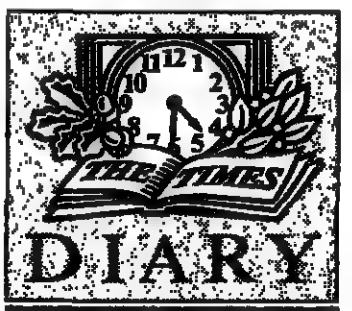
Passports to power

The prospect of an Indian prime minister born in Italy is intriguing. In a century of nationalism and independence, many modern states have followed the example of the American constitution by insisting that their leaders should be natives born and bred.

Historically, it was not always so. Colonial empires, from the days of the Romans to the sunset of the British empire, inevitably produced governors and rulers born thousands of miles from the provinces and protectorates they were administering. In 19th-century Europe, no one found it unusual that Metternich, a Rhine-lander, should run the Austro-Hungarian empire, nor that minor German princelings should become the royal families of half of Europe. Even Britain has had leaders with American blood during the 20th century — Churchill and Macmillan — while Eamonn de Valera, the former Irish leader, was born in New York.

Contemporary examples are harder to find, as countries have grown more fiercely nationalistic as modern communications have shrunk the globe. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister was born in Poland, and President Herzog in Belfast — but this has existed little over 40 years.

South American politics still has something of a cosmopolitan feel. Alberto Fujimori, the president of Peru, is of Japanese extraction, and Carlos Menem of Argentina has Armenian blood. But both would be disqualified from office, if they had not been born in the countries they now govern. Sonia Gandhi's position if she wins the now postponed Indian elections may not be unique, but it will be anomalous.



● Fans of Bob Dylan, who is 50 tomorrow, gathered last weekend for an early birthday party in a Leicester hotel. All had to dress as characters from Dylan's songs. One arrived as a Welsh postman. A Welsh postman? "Knocking on Evans' door," he explained.

Envoy in waiting

A delicate question of protocol has been bothering Raymond Seitz during the Queen's visit to America. Should he or should he not style himself American ambassador to Britain? Seitz spent only six days in London after his arrival on May 6 before being whisked back to America to join the official welcoming party. Since then he has accompanied the Queen almost everywhere. The difficulty arises because his stay in London was so brief that he has not yet formally presented his credentials.

Speaking from Texas, the still unofficial official said: "I have done all the necessary paperwork but have not yet been to the Palace to present my letters to the Queen. When she arrived in America I was introduced to her as the new ambassador, but protocol demands that on all the programmes I am marked down as appointed ambassador."

Seitz is now planning his return to Britain, though he and his family do not expect to be fully settled until the autumn. His dogs

are still in quarantine and he says his first diplomatic initiative when formally ambassador will be a campaign to shorten the six-month quarantine period.

U-bend

Consensus politics is one thing. Working for both sides is taking the spirit of Butskellism a little far. Yet that, it seems, is what former ITN executive Russ Pipe has been planning to do.

Pipe has been headhunted by Conservative Central Office to replace Harvey Thomas, chief of presentation, who left amid some scrum two months ago. Central Office wants Pipe to handle John Major's presentation at pre-



election rallies, and an announcement is said to be imminent.

What the Tories didn't know is that until last week Pipe was under contract to the Labour party doing almost identical work — touring the country to assess venues and facilities for Neil Kinnock's presidential-style election tour. "We don't believe you. It can't be true," said one Tory official when told yesterday. Labour officials were equally surprised.

Pipe himself declines to discuss the conflict of interests, but his wife says: "Something will be an-

Big nice Woolf

A charming insight into the world of Virginia Woolf will be offered in a lecture tonight by Nigel Nicolson, who knew her as a child. Nicolson, 74, will share his memories, previously confined to the immediate family, at Richmond Museum's exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of Woolf's death.

Nicolson remembers Woolf, who was an intimate friend of his mother, Vita Sackville-West, delighting children with her butterfly-hunting expeditions. But even these were tinged with bouts of melancholy. "I remember her leaning on her net one day, like a savage on her spear, and lamenting that she had forgotten what it was like to be a child," recalls Nicolson. Woolf then questioned him extensively, and it was only years later that he realised she had immortalised the conversation in *To the Lighthouse*.

Woolf also had little-known talents as a teller of children's stories, says Nicolson. He recalls a 1920s train journey from Sissinghurst to London during which Woolf assured him, in Sherlock Holmes fashion, that the man opposite puffing a cigar was a bus conductor from Leeds. "How do you know?" asked the young Nicolson. For the rest of the journey, Woolf whispered into his ear, weaving an imaginary tale around the alleged bus conductor. Sixty-five years later he has not forgotten it.



STABILISING ETHIOPIA

Foreign intervention in the affairs of unstable states can be constructive. As the continuing advance of rebel forces on Addis Ababa yesterday made clear, the flight of President Mengistu Haile Mariam does not necessarily spell peace for Ethiopia, nor bread and freedom for its wretched people. Next week's peace talks in London, convened by the Americans, were doomed so long as Mengistu clung to power. They may still be doomed unless the world endorses Eritrea's right to self-determination.

Diplomacy abhors the break-up of nations. In Africa, attachment to the arbitrarily-drawn colonial boundaries is based on a legitimate fear of chaos. Eritrea should be an exception to such prudence. By engineering Mengistu's departure, the US and the Soviet Union have given peace a hand. A ceasefire is vital if this year's famine is not to kill more than in 1984-5. By supporting a realistic solution to the civil war, the superpowers could yet avert the ultimate disaster of a fight to the finish.

The idea of superpower co-operation to defuse regional conflicts was first put on the bilateral summit agenda five years ago by President Reagan. The Soviet Union hesitated briefly before beginning a collaboration that has been crucial in bringing independence to Namibia and negotiations on ending civil wars in Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia. Over the past few weeks, the two governments have been quietly combining forces to convince Mengistu that he had no alternative but to fight.

In March the Soviet Union, Ethiopia's chief armorer since 1978, cut off all military aid. Last month, with Moscow's blessing, President Bush sent envoys first to Addis Ababa, then to talk with rebel leaders in Khartoum. America's intervention emboldened the Shengo, Ethiopia's rubber-stamp parliament, to call for unconditional talks on a transitional government, a ceasefire and free elections. The rebels offered "military restraint" during negotiations. The Americans scheduled peace talks for last week but, convinced that Mengistu's departure was indispensable, delayed them while they sought Zimbabwe's help in providing him with a "soft landing". The

bloodless departure of a dictator who purged any associate who advocated negotiation with the rebels makes compromise possible. But the rebels, scenting victory, will set stiff conditions next week for joining a transitional government.

Unless the Mengistu regime's comprehensive apparatus of terror is dismantled, talk of constitutional reforms, multi-party democracy and free elections would be meaningless. Such promises have been made at intervals, even by Mengistu, since the Dergue regime seized power in the 1974 revolution. All have been broken. Without sound guarantees, which may have to include external monitoring of elections, there will be no ceasefire.

Nor will there be peace without settling Africa's longest war, the Eritreans' 30-year fight for self-determination. The Eritreans now control most of the countryside and one of the two strategic Red Sea ports. In 1974, they might have settled for the autonomy formally conferred on Eritrea by the UN in 1950, under a settlement torn up ten years later by Emperor Haile Selassie. Now they are unlikely to be moved from their demand for a freely-conducted referendum offering Eritreans the choice between unity with Ethiopia, autonomy — or independence.

Distrust is deep on both sides. The democratic credentials of the rebels (particularly the Tigreans) are uncertain, and Ethiopians are understandably reluctant to exchange one Marxist tyranny for another. A step-by-step approach may be needed to allay Ethiopian fears that concessions to Eritrea would lead to similar demands by Tigreans, Oromos and other insurgents so far wanting only regional autonomy.

The Eritreans have indicated that they would be prepared to co-operate with a transitional government, deferring the referendum. For the rest of the country, domination by the Amharic minority must give way to a federal system which recognises the cultural rights of Ethiopia's 70 or so ethnic groups. Democracy is untried in Ethiopia, peace an almost impossible dream. But post-Mengistu, such dreams are now permitted.

INNER-CITY GAME PLAN

As John Major distributed his portfolios last November, word went round the corridors of Whitehall and council offices: "He's back." Michael Heseltine has never been regarded as a decisive minister, either at environment or at defence. But he is an invigorator, a lifter of the spirits of city councillors and urban residents, a greener of wasteland. They still point to "Heseltine's trees" in Liverpool 8.

He is also a rarity among modern Tories, a believer in local government and an interventionist in inner-city renewal. Even more rare, he has been given the opportunity to learn from his previous ministerial experience, and take a second bite at the same urban apple.

Today he is to announce his latest stimulus to urban regeneration, by way of a competition. About 15 city councils are to be invited to put in bids for a share of about £75 million. Not all bids will be accepted: some will go empty-handed. Given that the money is government money and that bids will be from local councils, this may sound like no more than a party game or a way of wasting local bureaucrats' time. It is not.

The discipline of competition should discourage local authorities from going for the most grandiose scheme they can think of, regardless of efficiency. They will be impelled to explore the more creative forms of private-sector partnership and community involvement. There will be an incentive to find ingenious ways of making a little go a long way. Above all, schemes will be accepted or rejected as whole packages, not as inelegant compromises born of haggling between the authority and the government.

Mr Heseltine's way sets each council looking not only towards Whitehall but at other councils in the race, to find ways of out-bidding them in efficiency, usefulness,

environmental appeal, local participation and originality. Too grandiose a scheme might be kicked out of the ring; so might one too ordinary. A £5 million scheme could be a better bet than a £10 million one.

The competing authorities will have to put themselves in the judge's shoes, to see what he might be looking for. Mr Heseltine will want something he can stand proudly beside for the cameras, though he will have to be careful not to impose his own tastes against the judgment of local people. Whitehall may be able to "spot winners" where financial efficiency is concerned, but the disastrous tower-block fashion of the 1960s should warn it against telling people how to live their lives.

His idea is not unlike an architectural competition or the process by which the location of the Olympic Games is chosen. The unknown content of other bids adds spice; even a little innocent spying might be within the spirit of the exercise. At the end there is the gratification of winning a race. With more competitions possible if the first is a success, the idea is even loser-friendly: better luck next time.

Mr Heseltine is currently in Newcastle at the end of his grand tour of the principal inner-cities of England, having visited Bristol, Sheffield, Manchester, Nottingham, Liverpool, Birmingham and the Wigan-Blackburn area of Lancashire. It was in the course of his visit to Manchester in March that he argued for competitive bidding, which will have enabled him to sound out councils later on his itinerary. "The best will win, and all will gain from the spirit fostered," he said in Manchester. If the concept of competitive bidding between local authorities really catches on, perhaps one day Sheffield council could bid to run Liverpool, and Wandsworth to run Camden.

THE ART OF DEVOLVING

The Arts Council is losing an empire and has not yet found a role. Instead of creating one, its members are complaining that they are left with no job to do. Yesterday they met, ostensibly to approve a £1 million cost-saving package, but less formally to discuss whether they still have a function, squeezed as they are between a determined arts minister and new regional arts boards. Their cries for help should be ignored. Any trouble they are in is self-inflicted.

The Arts Council was set up, rightly, to ensure a healthy distance between governments and arts organisations. Without such an arms-length system, a right-wing arts minister could, for instance, refuse to allow government money to go to a socialist theatre company, or vice versa. The Nazis were notorious for branding certain types of art degenerate, and Stalin threatened Shostakovich because of his bourgeois musical tendencies. But even in a democracy, pressure from backbenchers to cease funding organisations of which they disapprove can be hard to resist.

The council is now complaining that it is losing its autonomy. Its power is disappearing in three directions. First, more is being devolved to the regions. This is a policy of which the council officially approves, and must be good news for the renaissance of regional arts. Moreover, the devolution will increase the length of the governmental arm, not reduce it.

Second, the council deplors what it sees as interventionism by the arts minister, Tim

Renton. Mr Renton has said he will take no decisions on which companies should have their funding devolved until the new regional arts boards have been set up. The council seems to think that the arts minister should have no role in designing policy for the arts. The poor man ought to be allowed to have something to do. Besides, this suggestion seems sensible: the boards cannot make decisions until they exist. The faster the council gets the structures in place, the faster it should have its list agreed.

Finally, it resents the way some of the big national companies have been directly lobbying the government for more cash, bypassing the council. But it was an indictment of the council's ineffectuality when Lord Sainsbury, until recently chairman of the Royal Opera House, called for the biggest five companies to be funded directly by the arts ministry.

Now the council is mulling about a national strategy for the arts, an idea proposed by Mr Renton's predecessor-but-one, Richard Luce. The council hopes to come up with one that will give it a *raison d'être*. But the strategy is already in place: let the Arts Council continue to look after all arts companies with national prestige, such as the big orchestras and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and devolve responsibility for the rest, right down to the tiniest theatre, to a local level. The best strategy is diversity. Only in a climate of controlled chaos can creativity thrive.

New horizons in higher education

From the Director and Chief Executive of Nottingham Polytechnic
Sir, Your perceptive comments on the government's white paper on higher education ("The Polys are coming", May 21) might even more accurately have been entitled "The Polys have arrived". It has been a long, hard and sometimes dispiriting journey through the thickets and quicksands of misunderstanding about the polytechnics' aims and achievements, but the white paper rightly recognises two decades of achievement in changing the shape and ethos of higher education.

May add three further comments. Paradoxically, the "fusion of status" between universities and polytechnics will enhance the essential differences between the missions of the existing and the newly-designated universities. Hampered by a misleading title, there was constant pressure on the polytechnics to prove to the sceptics that polytechnics, though different from, were equal to the universities.

The granting of university title will leave no doubt on that score and the new national quality units will publicly demonstrate that there is high quality of various kinds (and some pockets of weakness) throughout the higher education system.

Secondly, I attach more significance than you to the establishment of a unified funding system for higher education. The "level playing field" on which we shall be able to compete for resources within higher education is a vital part of the new framework. The achievement of "parity of esteem" without parity of resources would have been a hollow, short-lived victory.

Finally, the change of title will mean that those considerable energies and resources previously used by our marketing departments in trying to overcome the misconceptions spawned by the name "polytechnic", particularly overseas, will now be directed to improving, even further, the quality and relevance of our teaching, research and consultancy.

Now that polytechnics have "arrived", I hope we will not be kept waiting before these long-overdue changes are implemented. Yours sincerely, RAY COWELL, Director and Chief Executive, Nottingham Polytechnic, Burton Street, Nottingham, May 21.

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association
Sir, It is very disappointing to see that in his white paper the government has decided to retain the present combination of A/AS courses for 16 to 19-year-olds. The insistence on maintaining the A level in its present form owes little to reasoned argument but possibly much to the fear that to abandon it would result in the demand for a four-year degree course.

The government has already stated that the AS is equivalent in standard to the A level, recognising that quality is not necessarily equivalent to quantity. In urging admission tutors to give "higher significance" to AS results it is presumably asking that they recognise the AS level as an acceptable qualification for entry to a degree course. Unless they do so it is unlikely to be widely used in the schools.

In retaining the two-tier system, in which choices of A or AS have to be made at 15 plus, the government, while paying lip service to the need for a broader curriculum, will perpetuate the narrow specialised courses which now exist negating the breadth of the national curriculum and making it unlikely that we shall be producing in the future scientists with fluency in a language other than their own, or linguists with a scientific background.

Their plans will do little to encourage more participation in the academic courses while making it unlikely that the vocational courses, welcome as they are, will gain parity of esteem.

ENID CASTLE, President, Girls' Schools Association, 130 Regent Road, Leicester, May 22.

From the Principal of Wakefield District College
Sir, The debate about the accountability of HM inspectors (report, May 20) takes a new twist in the light of the creation of a post-16 sector of education and training announced by John Major last week.

The two traditional roles performed by the inspectorate, monitoring performance and standards and reporting the state of the service to the government, will now have to be enhanced. Removal from the local educational authorities of the bulk of educational provision after the school-leaving age provides a need for public access to information about institutional performance and student achievement, while the heralded independence of colleges will require them to have access to support and guidance on improving performance if they are found to be under-achieving.

Who will supply these extra initiatives — a revamped and expanded inspectorate perhaps incorporating some of the former local advisers, or an educational wing of the Audit Commission? And to whom will they be accountable — the secretary of state, the new funding council for the post-16 sector, or directly to the consumers with their fees, grants and training vouchers? Surely we must ensure that consumer protection is built into the system at the planning stage.

Yours faithfully, K. W. RUDDIMAN, Principal, Wakefield District College, Margaret Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, May 21.

A need to sue
From Mr Gerald Howarth, MP for Cannock and Burnwood (Conservative)
Sir, Joe Joseph ("Edwina's empty victory", May 15) betrays a serious lack of understanding of the injury that defamation can cause.

In the *Panorama* case involving me and my colleague, Neil Hamilton, MP, in January 1984, we were the objects of a hatchet job not by a comedy programme but by the BBC's self-proclaimed flagship current affairs programme. Quite apart from the traumatic effect it had on us and our families (of which Mr Joseph displays no understanding), as newly-elected MPs we had no alternative but to take action.

If left unchallenged, the programme would have blighted our careers. Additionally, journalists making subsequent references to us would simply have turned up the *Panorama* press cuttings and trotted out the same catalogue of smears, particularly at election time.

In an unsubstantiated aside, Mr Joseph asserted that the outcome of our case, which was settled out of

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lesser breeds of dogs without the law

Lesser breeds of dogs without the law

From the Chairman of the Kennel Club
Sir, There is no place for dangerous dogs in the home, street or countryside. There are in excess of 180 breeds of dogs recognised by the Kennel Club. This gives every potential dog-owner an opportunity to own a breed suitable to their circumstances.

The choice is wide and the temperaments of the majority are such that their potential for aggressive behaviour is slight. Guidance on a suitable animal for every new owner is available.

In recent years the so-called "breed" of the American pit bull terrier has been introduced here and multiplied. The Kennel Club has never recognised this breed and can see no merit in it. There is no need to own them, they have been shown to be lethal and uncontrolled in the hands of irresponsible owners who, one must add, are unlikely to register them or insure against the damage they might do.

Problems of identification could occur but the Kennel Club will support all enforceable measures, however far-reaching, that the government introduces, that will rid this country of these dangerous animals.

Yours faithfully, J. A. MACDOUGALL, Chairman, The Kennel Club, 1 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, W1, May 21.

From Mr A. J. Wilson
Sir, I agree with F. P. Taylor (May 20) that it should be compulsory for all dog owners to take out third-party insurance to cover injury caused by their pet.

However, victims of attack or road accidents would not "automatically" receive compensation. Dogs are not classified as belonging to a dangerous species and therefore section 2 of the Animals Act applies.

As I read it, the injured person must show that the animal was likely to cause injury, and that was due to characteristics of the animal which are not normally found in animals of the same species, and (crucially) those characteristics were known to the keeper.

Regimental future

From Dr E. R. Holmes
Sir, Major-General John Strawson's volley in defence of the regimental system (May 14) was well aimed. The system does indeed make an invaluable contribution to bonding men together and helping the achievements of one generation to be remembered and emulated by another, and we would be rash to jettison it.

However, it should be our servant, not our master. The middle-rank officers who form the central nervous system of the living army are a good deal more open-minded about the system than is often recognised by their seniors. The Gulf war underscored its flexibility: most of the infantry and armoured units that fought were the products of post-1922 amalgamations and were in any case brought up to war establishment by drafts from other units.

What the army now needs is a regimental system for the nineties and beyond: better a reduced number of larger units with adequate manpower for operational tasks than a plethora of regimental flags above half-empty barracks.

Whatever their final form, our regiments need to look ahead with confidence. The mismatch between commitments and resources needs urgent resolution by an announcement on the army's future. Unless the secretary of state for defence moves quickly, he risks ending up with an army which is not "smaller but better" (his description of "Options for Change", July 1990) — just smaller but bitter.

Yours, RICHARD HOLMES, Vine House, North Street, Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire, May 15.

From Mr J. M. MacAulian
Sir, General Strawson asserts that the regimental system is of priceless value and is the envy of other armies. This may well be so but he does not really produce evidence to prove that, because of the regimental system, the British army was and is better than, for example, the German, Russian and American armies.

Were, in fact, Field Marshal von Manstein, Marshal Zhukov and General Patton so envious? The Reconnaissance Corps was formed in Britain early in Hitler's war and fought excellently although it had no regimental tradition behind it.

Yours, J. M. MACAULIAN, Hawthornhill, Granville Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

Heights and depths

From Mr Robert Pyke
Sir, The caption to your photograph (early editions, May 10) of two men abseiling 878 feet from the Emley Moor television mast refers to a claim that this distance constitutes a world record. Members of the caving fraternity would refute this.

Shafts of such depths in limestone caverns are by no means rare. High in the mountains of Mexico lies the entrance of the great pothole of El Somno de Golondrinas. Cavers from around the world come to abseil 1,300 feet down the free-hanging rope descent. They customarily "tandem" on the ascent, i.e., two cavers climb the same rope close together. This cosy arrangement helps compensate for the effects of the gloom and the aggressive attentions of the cave parakeets whose home this is.

The activity has been further enlivened by the recorded difficulties of passing knots, when the budget does not run to 1,300 feet of rope.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT PYKE, 38 High Street, Milton Malsor, Northampton, May 11.

This is one good reason for some breeds to be classified as dangerous animals in future legislation.

Many insurance policies in relation to household contents contain a liability to third parties section, which covers liability under the Animals Act.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW WILSON, 18 Mount Terrace, Royston, Hertfordshire, May 21.

From Mrs Charlotte J. L. O'Driscoll
Sir, To group together such animals as pit bull terriers members of recognised pedigree breeds and claim they should all be rounded up and destroyed is an incitement to retaliation unworthy of *The Times* and its readership (leading article, May 21).

These are breeds with a distinguished history and record of achievement. They need proper breeding and intelligent handling, but many thousands are owned and enjoyed by ordinary families. They excel in the show ring, obedience competitions, agility and working trials.

Yours faithfully, CHARLOTTE J. L. O'DRISCOLL, 26 Franklyn Way, Claverham, Bristol, Avon, May 22.

From Mr Peter Dimmock
Sir, Yes, the photographs were horrific and, clearly, it is right to ban the further importation of dogs bred for fighting. However, the proposed wholesale destruction of existing dogs already in this country seems to be an over reaction to the problem and rather akin to using a steamroller to crack a walnut.

Might it not be more sensible, at least as an interim British dog-loving compromise, to make it compulsory for the owners of these dogs to keep them muzzled and on a lead whenever they are not confined to a secure area?

Yours faithfully, PETER DIMMOCK, Garrick Club, Garrick Street, WC2, May 22.

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Growth areas
From Mr Tim Colbourne
Sir, As a vegetarian, I applaud the growth of the vegetable motif among European politicians, but Britain, as usual, lags behind. Germany has its Chancellor Kohl (cabbage) and now France has prime minister Cresson (watercress). What do we have? Nothing but the Greens.

Yours faithfully, T. COLBOURNE, 12 The Platt, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, East Sussex, May 16.

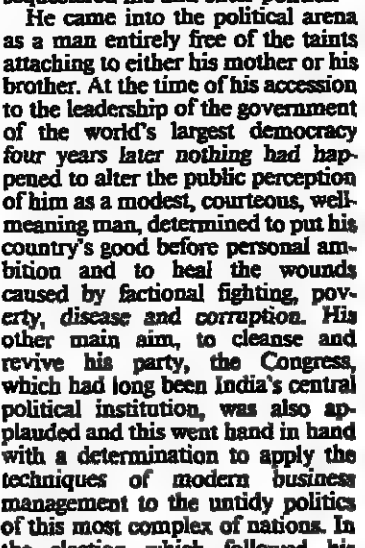
Sports letters, page 36



Birthdays today

Memorial services

RAJIV GANDHI



After his return to India he concentrated on flying and in 1967

When asked to choose a project on which to gain political experience, he elected to oversee the Asian Games which took place in Delhi in December 1982. This proved a success although at vast cost to the taxpayer. Gandhi supervised the planning and construction of stadiums and athletes' housing, and the day-to-day events during the games. That experience and his years as a pilot convinced him of the value of technology and what he deemed the scientific techniques of modern

But there were other successes. In Assam Gandhi reached agreement with the leaders of an agitation which had troubled the state for years and left thousands dead, though here, too, there was criticism by his own party of a solution in the state which brought a non-Congress government to power. There was a similar settlement with the leaders of an armed insurgency in the north-eastern territory of Mizoram. Here, also, in spite of the annoyance it

Closer to home, one of Gandhi's major misadventures was over his decision to send the Indian army to support the Tamil minority in neighbouring Sri Lanka against the Sinhalese majority. Over 30,000 Indian troops eventually found themselves in Sri Lanka with the intent of supporting the Tamil separatist Tamil Tigers who feared any Indian-inspired settlement with the moderates. In a not unfamiliar outcome the Indian army found itself embroiled with a section of those it had gone to protect and after a savage and fruitless campaign was finally withdrawn, six months after Gandhi's removal from power, in 1990.

He is survived by his wife, Sonia, a son, Rahul, and a daughter, Priyanka.

Shrewsbury

The following Scholarships and Exhibitions have been awarded:

Junior Scholarships:	N.J. Fielding (Kingston)	N.A. Homrigh (Trenton)
Senior Scholarships:	A.L. MacCall (Princeton)	N.T. Scaife (Stamford Hall)
Kennedy Scholarships:	D.T.J. Bailey (Powder Mill)	G.J. Buttrick (The College School)
McDonald Scholarships:	C.F. Cadden (Woodland Grange)	L.A. Cadden (Aberley Hall)
Moss Scholarships:	C.E. Flanagan (Trenton Manor)	N.M.F. O'Connor (Woodland Grange)
Yardley Scholarships:	D.A. Simon (Aberley Hall)	A.J.E. Raugh (Princeton)
Allington Exhibitions:	A.A.W. Fergus (Winchester)	

House, Brackley).
Music Scholarships: G.A. Gordon
(King's College School, Cambridge).
R.S. Harris (Malak). J.K.Y. Lu
(Prestfield).
Music Exhibitions: C.S. Chaney (West-
minster Abbey Choir School). P.N.
Thomas (Kingland Grange).
Art Scholarship: P.J.W. Dudley (Lich-
field Cathedral School).

Latest appointments include Mr John Henry Weeks, QC, to be a circuit judge, assigned to the Western Circuit.

The Princess of Wales will open the West London Mission's St Luke's detoxification centre at 25a Wincott Street, Lambeth, at 11.35; as President of Barnardo's will attend a luncheon at Searcy's at 12.30; and will attend a performance of *Tango Argentino* at the Aldwych Theatre at 8.00 in aid of the National Aids Trust and the

unit for the elderly at Malton Hospital, North Yorkshire, at 1.30; will open the new wing of St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough, at 12.45; will visit Pickering Isle Museum, Pickering, at 1.10; and visit St Gregory's Minister, Kirkdale, at 2.45. Later, she will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 7.30 for Trinity Hospice.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will visit Whipsnade Wild Animal

Mr Albert Shipton
A memorial service for Mr Albert Shipton was held yesterday at Christ Church, Heltenham. The Rev Richard Anglesby officiated. Mr Peter Shipton, son, read the lesson and Canon Norman Haddock

Memorial meeting

[illegible][illegible]

Mr Justice Michael Corbett, Chief Justice of South Africa, is to be an honorary bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

Kensington and Chelsea

Councillor Mrs Frank Taylor was elected Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

ported by her daughters, Miss Amelia Jane Taylor and Miss Victoria Rose Taylor and Mavorresses. Father John

Marriage
Mr A. Humphrey and Miss J. Blackett
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 18, at St Mary's Magdalene Church, Whitton, Mr. Morphet, Northumberland, officiating.
Mr Andrew Humphrey, youngest son of Mr and Mrs. Christopher

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Charlotte Blackett and Rebecca and James Blackett and the groom by Mr James Cookson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in America.

A lady Fairfax of Cameron gave birth to a son on May 21.

princess Royal, Patron of
(The National Deaf-Blind
Club Association), at
a dinner at Brompton Hall,

united of Lichfield, Lord and
rocket. Admiral Sir Raymond
Lygo, Sir Brian and Lady
Sir Desmond Wilcox and his
Richard, Mr and Mrs Derek
Mrs Emma Nicholson, MP, Mr

Speaker gave a dinner in Mr.'s House last night in honor of a parliamentary session from Syria led by Mr. Assad. The Chargé d'Affaires of Syria was also present. Other guests were:

Mr. Nathan, Mr. Mr Robert
Mr. Mr Harry Harris, Mr. Mr
Mr. Mr Mr Michael Carr, Mr.
Mr. Mr Mr Mr Mr
Mr. Mr Mr Tom Dabell, Mr.
Mr. Mr Mr Paul, Mr. Mr
Mr. Mr Mr Mr Mr

High Commissioner
Loss, Lord High Commis-
to the General Assembly
of London
Cafe Royal.
Paraguay a
of Poland

Lord Mayo
The Lord
minister, C
ley Porter, s
gave a rec
Westminste
after her el
council me

College

Mr M.J. Prince, the Clockmaker, accompanied by the their ladies, were Under School, 8 J.D., Church Cathedral School (Exhibition), G.H.I., O.Lambrook, Brackton, James (Alley) Court School, 11 E.P.W.

Warden, at a
r of the Clock-
pany held last
Smith's Hall. The
the Master, the
n and Dame Ali-
the speakers.

EDUCATION

of London
Mayor, accompanied
Mayores and Mr

House School, Tavistock
College
Exhibitions: 15 M.K.C.
Ridge School, Woking
College, Woking
Edgware, 19 A.C. W.
Lodge and Winchester
Municipal School, Woking
College, Woking
Music Awards 1991:
John's College School,
J.D.E. Woods (Guitar)
Gral School,
(Westminster) Under 8
Awards: T.J. Dunn
School, Woking
Award: R. Brasher (Fi-
nity School).

School
The following have
to Queen's Schola

of Westminster
Mayor of West-
minster Dame Shir-
dine Porter, was
present last night
at the annual
meeting of the
Council House
at the annual
meeting.

Mr. A. J. Brown
and Miss I. McRitchie

Weeks (Christ
ol. Oxford). 9
Winkworth
10 M.S.T.
Preparatory
mson Orlando

Mr P. Girolami
and Miss D. Bookman

late Mr Sidney Bookman and
Mrs Patricia Bookman.

between Charles Monro, second son of Mr and Mrs Liddell-Grainger, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, and Mrs Grainger, of Trigon, London, and Karen Petal, daughter of Mr and Mrs Humphryes, of St Luke's, London.

Mr A.J. Peacock Pochin
and **Mrs. E.B. Pochin**

of Mr and Mrs
and Peacock Pochin, of Barkby,
of Mr Leicestershire, and Jayne,
of youngest daughter of Mr

The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mrs S.C. Walker, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and Mr N.E.D. Walker, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Joann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Mills, of Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

Captain C.R.N. Weston, RA and Miss A.L. Hughes

of the Old Wharf House,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire, and
Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs
Robert Hughes, of Woodlands.

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs G. White, of Bromley, Kent, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Craik, of Northwood, Middlesex. The wedding will take place at St Mary's Church, Battersea, on

Victoria Glendinning reviews a zappy middle-aged fantasy, domestic and exotic, about the fantasies of middle age

Ham and high jinky-poops

Hamstead novels are about the moral and marital crises of mature, articulate people in creative professions, living in comfortable Victorian houses. Then there are "boys' books", about thugs, drugs, funny money, guns, bimbos and espionage. Al Alvarez, who is also a poet and critic, seems to have had the bright idea of writing a his-and-hers novel, combining those two genres.

Since he exploits the stereotypes of each, transcending neither, it reads a bit like a double-edged parody, which may be the intention. Joe Constantine is a photographer and Judy is a graphic artist. They are happily married and childless, all in all to one another. They have liberal views and green thoughts, and they live, yes, in Hamstead, in a big house inherited from Joe's Jewish parents. Roads and streets and tube stations are tirelessly named, in an A-Z of topographical detail which seems more like padding than local colour, especially since colour is missing when it matters. Judy, whose narrative voice alienates (not very convincingly) with Joe's, goes to John Lewis to choose towels, and finds what she wants — but doesn't say what colour they are. The whole point, for women anyway, about buying towels is choosing the colour. This may seem trivial. But it's not the only time when Alvarez's sudden sketchiness is disproportionately upsetting, as if the incidents were not alive in his imagination.

One mild disaster has overtaken Joe and Judy. They have become middle-aged. "It seemed to have happened absurdly fast and without either of us noticing it." Middle

age, and being Jewish, is what Alvarez is writing about, underneath and around the busy plot. The Constantines have become complacent, ambition is running out, and time is running out too. They are almost bored, in spite of the archly inventive domestic eroticism we are compelled to share with them. (The joys of marital sex are rarely joyous to read about.)

Their great friend Tommy Apple dies suddenly. Apple was a cheery Jewish chancer who made dashing commercial deals, and sometimes cut Joe in, out of the kindness of his heart. Joe would put some money into Apple's bulk purchase of, say,

DAY OF ATONEMENT

By A. Alvarez

Cape, £13.99

Hungarian pullovers, or New Zealand honey, and always got his investment back with a nice profit. But Apple died under odd circumstances. Joe is approached by twitish Mr Riley, a representative of Ramon Fernandez & Co, Import-Export. And then by Inspector Rogers, from Scotland Yard; and then by Mr Stonehouse, a Home Office adviser. And what about Helen, the dumb blonde whom Apple had asked Joe to look after if anything happened to him?

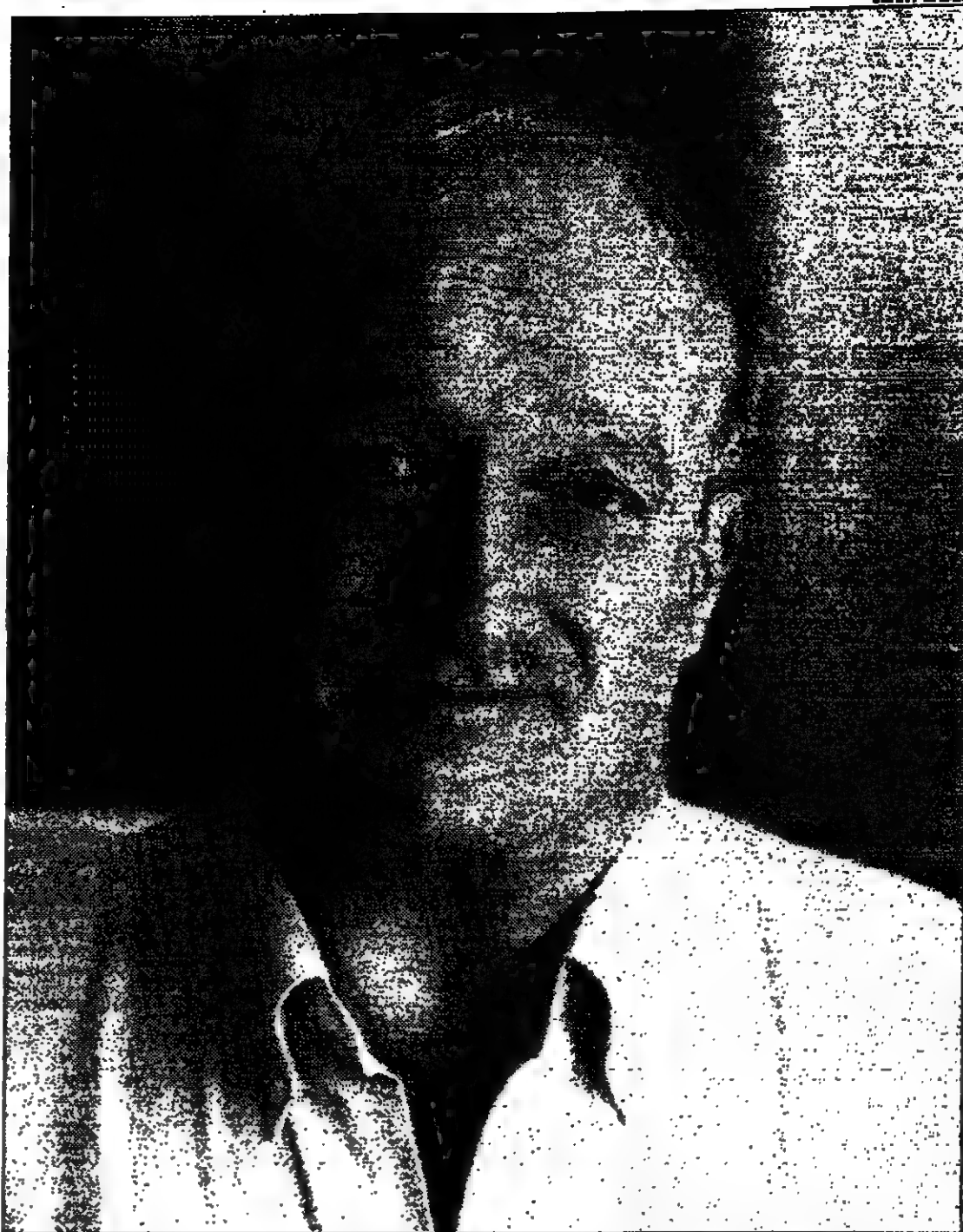
Ramon Fernandez, the boss of the baddies, wants to meet Joe too. He sends in his henchmen, Karl the German, Danny the Irishman, and Hector Gutierrez the heavy, a Colombian contract killer who carries a knife and uses it to carve smiles on terrified faces. Both the buddies and the forces of law and

order are desperate to know what happened to Apple's last shipment of wooden trains from Hungary.

Joe and Judy are sucked into a world dominated by flesh, hairy, super-rich Fernandez. It's a world of companies within companies, dealing in property, pornography, erotica, racehorses, protection rackets, and drug-dealing. The forces of the law want Joe to play along with Fernandez, and find out what he can. Fernandez wants Joe too, as his front man, promising him "a company car, an expense account, good hotels when you travel, all the girls you can eat". Joe feels like Jesus on the mountain top, being tempted by Satan.

Living dangerously is more exciting than growing old gracefully. Both Joe and Judy, rescued from boredom, are seduced. Joe, an under-achiever riddled by ancestral guilt, fancies young Helen and the easy mega-money he sees sloshing around in the system. Judy, a Scots Presbyterian given to jogging on Parliament Hill, succumbs to champagne and Fernandez in a Knightsbridge hotel.

The plot tightens round the quest for a Panamanian share certificate, and climaxes in a shoot-out. Joe and Judy end up back in their old life, miraculously richer but chastened. Judy loves Joe even more, accepting him for what he really is, "a modest man with modest aims". You would not be surprised if the whole adventure had turned out to be a dream. *Day of Atonement* is a middle-aged fantasy about middle-aged fantasy, and why not? But there's something crucial being withheld — authorial anger, I suspect, about the unfairness of life — which just stops this entertainment from hitting the spot.



Al Alvarez making the best of two worlds, the Hamstead novel and the boys' shooty-bang book

Bimbos, spooks, and frayed nerves

Chris Petit

QUILLER BARRACUDA

By Adam Hall

W. H. Allen, £13.99

THE old global supremacy plot gets another airing in Quiller Barracuda, the twist being that the whole shop is up for sale to the few individuals rich enough to afford it. Putting a twist on things is Hall's trademark. Stock thriller elements — whether a car chase, the spookiness of a recently vacated premises, the independent-cum-pliable women who provide romance in the modern thriller — are pushed closer to the edge than by other writers, thanks to urgent, stream-of-consciousness narration. Of all the Brit spies, Quiller hangs most in the existential balance: frayed nerves, cautious introspection, and general claustrophobia characterise his tense world, plus the moment of sloth before the violence. Quiller, dispatched undercover to Mi-

ami to find out why a sleeper has started sending funny signals, takes a bath in a Florida cocktail of drugs, electronic brainwashing, and plots that in hands less capable than Hall's would be just another assignment. *Alpha minus*.

Last Man to Die, by Michael Dobbs (HarperCollins, £13.99). After getting burnt last time out with a Berlin thriller that found itself overtaken by events, Dobbs steps back smartly to WW2 with *Last Man to Die*, a Jack Higginsish yarn of a German's escape from Britain in the last weeks of the war — seized for propaganda by Goebbels — and journey to the Berlin bunker. Paddling comes in the form of a cameo of Churchill, clearly a hero of the author, a former political aide to Mrs T. *Beta minus*.

Butcher's Bill, by Frank Kippax

(HarperCollins, £13.99). On the other hand, Kippax is no fan of Winston Churchill, and in *The Butcher's Bill* unceremoniously kicks him off his pedestal. He revises the conventional view of Churchill's war record, gives him about as scandalous a press as Rolf Hochhuth did in *The Soldiers*, and sniffs out a conspiracy surrounding Rudolph Hess's puzzling, solitary flight from Nazi Germany to Scotland in 1941. Was Hess's death — in Spandau prison, aged 93, in 1987 — in fact murder, and a part of the same conspiracy? Much of the story is told in what would qualify

— in a more conventional thriller — as flashback, except here the subject is the past, and how its carefully hidden secrets inform and determine the present. Kippax's investigator, a soldier assassin with a bleak history of dirty tricks in Northern Ireland, comes to realise that history's complexities — and its lies — apply just as much to him. *Provocation alpha*, narrative beta.

Blood Knot, by Sam Llewellyn (Michael Joseph, £13.99). Llewellyn's yachting stories are good mainstream thrillers, distinguished by briskness. *Blood Knot* is

superior *Boy's Own* — lots of mucking about on boats and outward bound — done with enough enthusiasm to goad even the most slothful reader into considering a light fitness course. He can write a bit too, his ocean passages passing for the sort of travel writing published in *Granta*. Bill Tyrell, ex-foreign-correspondent, now taking delinquents to sea as part of a youth opportunities scheme, is framed with the death of a drowned Russian sailor. A private army masquerades as security guards, the chase cuts to Estonia — very in with thriller writers at present — where, in a rather too neatly knotted climax, Tyrell finds himself in a revolution, and unravelling the mystery of his father's death. *Beta plus*.

"God makes nothing fair," the monologist tells her analyst, in the title piece. "It's up to you to render it fair." Life shouldn't be "how I am is how you are"; it should be "do what you can and be what you are". Being yourself is the thread which binds these cautionary tales.

Romulus, the daughter of a hard-working, hard-thinking, high-thinking feminist becomes an air-headed air hostess. Miranda moves to the country to please her green husband. Once ensconced in the rural idyll, he finds that he actually prefers plants potted, animals on a plate, and a partner who doesn't look and smell, increasingly, like her goats. "But Miranda is perfectly happy about it, we mustn't forget that," says the wise Weldon woman. In these parables a conventional disaster — a split between husband and wife, mother and daughter — is viewed as a route to freedom.

Bizarre twists, unanticipated morals, storytelling games — these are what Weldon the writer enjoys. Surprising decisions, unexpected actions, living as going three steps further — these are what Weldon the pop psychologist proposes. Sometimes the characters, story and author soar heights. Sometimes they don't quite take off. A monologue by a talking house should never have got beyond the drawing board. With the central figure not a woman, Weldon, the architect of so many interesting and challenging yet accessible literary constructions, was not at home.

Dropping out for self

Anne Barnes

WHERE ARE THE SNOWS



By Maggie Gee

Reinmann, £13.99

THE LAST ENCHANTMENTS

By Robert Liddell

Peter Owen, £13.95

KING CAMERON

By David Craig

Corgi, £12.95

THE COAST OF CHICAGO

By Stuart Dybek

Faber, £13.99

"HOME owning is a monumental bore," says the beautiful Alexandra to her husband Christopher in Where are the Snows. "Let's go on holiday and never come back." So they do. They are in love, and they want to try out that love against a variety of different backdrops. It does have a certain appeal, except that Maggie Gee is intent on showing that it is a very bad idea, selfish and wasteful. This is an honest study of selfishness and the clichés that make up our idea of it. The characters reveal their lives through monologues which overlap, and often involve so much repetition that there seems no end to it. Alexandra rambles on about the effect she has on men and about her need for children, for love, for stylish living. Christopher sometimes finds room for apologies. Unfortunately this clarity doesn't last. It is necessary to the moral basis of the story that the lives of Christopher and Alexandra should become increasingly thin. How can they then also remain interesting to the reader? Maggie Gee never quite solves this problem. She does try to live things up by setting the middle age of the lovers somewhere in the beginning of the 21st century, thereby acquiring a futuristic frisson, but this is largely to enable the theme of selfishness to extend to environmental issues. It does little to deepen the themes of self-regard and escapism.

Robert Liddell's novel, The Last Enchantments, written in 1948 and now published for the first time in England, is much less restless. It is an Oxford novel, or at least a north Oxford novel, in which suburban and academic mannerisms rub against each other to produce a collection of small comedies (and tragedies) of manners. The interest of the story lies in the way it is told through the eyes of two young brothers whose observations support and complement each other. It is a celebration of their companionship and of the small neighbourhood kindnesses they share together. Mrs Foyle in the next door house has a spoilt and vicious daughter who treats her with contempt. She also has a social life. Finessed with dilemmas. The importance of these small dramas is not lessened by the knowledge that Hitler is mov-

ing across Europe and that war is pressing daily closer. Liddell makes the contrast between personal and national anxieties with delicacy and precision, pointing out the nature of cruelty and of compassion whether it be near home or on an international scale. His style is old-fashioned, almost quaint, disguising the firmness of judgment which lies behind his gentle irony.

In King Cameron, there is nothing gentle about David Craig's description of the horrors of life among the crofts and small farms of Scotland in the 18th century. He writes with violent bitterness about the ways in which poor people were driven and burnt out of their homes, or press-ganged into the army to fight in wars that meant nothing to them. The huge manipulation practised by the landowners, and the hypocrisy of people in government are set out in harsh and uncompromising detail and left unresolved, drawing the reader in to reflect on the relationship, in any period, between the governors and the governed. The central character, Angus Cameron, courageous and eloquent in moments of high drama, is aware that his role as a democratic ruler contains many paradoxes, and that injustices cannot be simply

wiped out, they must be turned around and utilised to procure a safer world. There is no heroic certainty for him, and for the reader there is no false optimism.

Stuart Dybek's stories in The Coast of Chicago suggest, at least, dilemmas where the balance of power is not so fixed. Most of them are written from the point of view of a child looking into an adult world. They explore the diversity of lifestyles in a city where the sense of being an outsider is the thing that makes people feel they belong together. In most of the longer stories, a child's observation of the world is used to pick out and emphasise the childlike qualities in adults struggling to find a foothold in a bewildering society. The rag-and-bone men, so ridiculed for their strangeness as they drive through the streets, turn out to be friendly, even hospitable, when tracked down to their homes. The old man who seems to sit rooted to the kitchen floor talking authoritatively about Chopin, is also the rebel of the household, apt to put on both his best suits at once and disappear without warning like a troubled teenager. Chicago presents a range of uncertainties and half-understood alliances which defy society's usual equations.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Tell the truth, face the consequences

Geoff Brown on *Guilty By Suspicion*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Mermaids*, *Life is Cheap*, *Problem Child*

The blunt question of the film "Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?" that damaged so many lives during the House Un-American Activities Committee's witch-hunts, continues to gnaw at the liberal mind. The latest person to turn to the era for dramatic inspiration is film producer Irwin Winkler, whose credits embrace *Raging Bull*, *Round Midnight* and all five *Rocky* films.

In *Guilty By Suspicion* (15, Cannon Shafesbury Avenue and elsewhere), he directs for the first time. He also writes, spinning the story of David Merrill, a flourishing director (modelled on blacklist victim John Berry), who briefly brushed against the Communist Party 20 years before and is now faced with a quandary. Should he clear himself before the committee, name names and film the great script Darryl F. Zanuck is dangling before him? Or should he stick to his principles, lose his job, and cast a shadow over those he loves?

Mainstream cinema audiences do not appreciate quandaries; they want action. The HUAC sessions (often brawling, gavel-banging affairs) contain plenty of drama; yet Winkler's film, at its cost, throws the hero into the committee's jaws only at the end. Until then, the focus is on Merrill's mounting unease as his five-limbed, friends and family become swallowed in a black cloud of fear. At first he remains mild-mannered; then he throws a phone at the wall and yells at the FBI men dogging his footsteps. Yet even with a well-modulated performance from an actor like Robert De Niro, the spectacle rarely takes you to the edge of your seat.

Producers being well-trained in the arts of compromise, it is perhaps not surprising that *Guilty By Suspicion* soft-pedals the issue. Winkler conveys the man's nervous tension well enough, but he seriously underestimates the passions that drove a generation to the brink by suggesting that sympathy with communism was always just a matter

of "people caring about people".

On a technical level at least, *Guilty By Suspicion* punts with quality. The photography gleams in appropriate dark hues; period trappings are impeccable. The acting, from De Niro downwards, is generally fine. George Wendt shines particularly brightly as Merrill's best friend. Yet, dramatically, Winkler's film remains stillborn; not the best outcome for a story ripped from turbulence, bitterness and pain.

When an advertising poster bills *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (PG, Curzon West End and elsewhere) as "the original buddy picture", and surrounds two boots and a noose with burbling copy about Bonnie and Clyde, Butch Cassidy, and Laurel and Hardy, we have what President Bush would call "a perception problem". But I see the distributor's difficulties.

How, in 1991, are you going to pull in a general cinema audience to see Tom Stoppard's play about two Shakespeare characters wandering through the text of *Hamlet*, filmed though it is by Stoppard with great aplomb?

Strengthened by his experience as a screenwriter, Stoppard tries hard, staging the action within lustrous castle interiors, and reshaping



Friendship under pressure: George Wendt (left) asks Robert De Niro for his public support in Irwin Winkler's *Guilty By Suspicion*

delightful, with some of Oldman and Roth's noisier routines, however, one feels they have bypassed the sublime Laurel and Hardy to become the dreaded Abbott and Costello.

The poster for *Mermaids* (15, Odeon West End), a curate's egg of a comedy-drama, tells its own story. The design suggests the dramatic focus falls on Cher and Bob Hoskins. But in fact the lead character, a naive teenager who is approaching sexual maturity in the year of JFK's assassination, is played by Winona Ryder, who gets pushed into a little box above the title.

Like poster, like film. Cher (cast as Ryder's mother, an eccentric, roving single parent with dizzy clothes and long black hair) preens tiresomely before the camera, as though she were saying, "Aren't I beautiful? And look, no wrinkles!" The shallowness extends to the film's New England, candle-glossy setting, replete with over-convenient and caddy characters, such as the town's shoe-store owner.

Yet all is not lost. Some jokes work well; Richard Benjamin, the director, charts an

easy path through the confusion; and Ryder proves genuinely appealing as the bubbly heroine seriously confused by the birds and the bees.

Life is Cheap (ICA Cinema) is from the Hong Kong-born American director Wayne Wang, but do not expect the tasteful observations of *Dim Sum* or *Eat a Bowl of Tea*. The film (completed in 1989, full title: *Life is Cheap... But Toilet Paper is Expensive*) hunkers itself at the viewer.

Wayne's subject is Hong Kong life, seen through the experiences of a naive Asian-American from San Francisco, delivering a mysterious briefcase to an equally mysterious Big Boss.

Juvenile satire rubs shoulders with poetic beauty. Blink, and you might miss any number of strange sights. In the midst of this frenzy, a handheld camera follows the hero (played by Spencer Nakasako,

the writer and co-director) on an eight-minute chase through Hong Kong's apartment blocks and alleyways: an exhausting tour de force.

The film's furious jumble goes some way towards capturing the *dance macabre* of this capitalist outpost before the Chinese takeover. But it also demonstrates the perils of a director being carried away by his own high spirits.

Problem Child (PG, Plaza and elsewhere) crashes onto

the screen with Yahoo crudity. How could anybody find good humour in this all-yelling, all-face-pulling comedy about a horrendously mischievous orphan wreaking havoc on his new parents? How could anybody be charmed by the mean-spirited script, the ugly direction by actor Dennis Dugan, or eight-year-old Michael Oliver? Yet American audiences laughed, and *Problem Child II* is already in the works. So much for critics.

The film seriously belittles the passions that drove a generation to the brink

GALLERIES

Neither a borrower nor a pretender be

The reception that launches the Royal Scottish Academy's annual summer show used to be a staid affair. This year it became chic. "Black tie" (not obligatory) was ubiquitous, and the anachronistic robes of the academicians bobbed about in a sea of tarts and taffeta. As usual, the pictures and sculpture were ostentatiously ignored.

I describe the event not because of its value as unpremeditated performance art, but because the fuss underlines the show's banality. To be fair, this Scottish offering is no better and no worse than that served up every summer in Burlington House. But, whereas the Royal Academy show pretends to be nothing more than a wide-ranging showcase for amateur and professional talent, there is evidence in Edinburgh that the Scottish academicians take themselves and their choices seriously: almost without exception the artists included here regard themselves as professional.

There is a rumour of opinion which contends that Modernism went off the rails with Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* and that Cubism and every "ism" since has been an aberration. That opinion is clearly the prevailing one here. Everywhere those touchstones of the modern movement - experimentation, exploration, risk - are disclaimed. The result is an exhibition which cocks a snook at a century of Western art.

Look, for example, at Sir Robin Philipson. He is a past president of the institution and a pillar of Scotland's art establishment. Once a disciple of Kokoschka, Philipson adopted Graham Sutherland's impasto in his maturity and later flirted with de Kooning's Expressionism. Now - if his large untitled canvas at the academy is anything to go by - Philipson has discovered James Ensor, the Belgian wizard of the macabre. And the erotic imagery (cavorting costumed fe-

Andrew Gibbon
Williams laments a derivative summer show at the Royal Scottish Academy



Gordon Mitchell's *Bird Man* at the summer show

males, crouching apes, rams and the like) which he orchestrated with such panache in recent years is being edged out by that hallmark of Ensor's artistic vocabulary, the mask.

Philipson is not the only angry young man to have degenerated into an irritating elder statesman. The current president, William Baillie, by instinct an exponent of Scotland's over-vaunted epigrammatic tradition, now paints anecdotal oils with romantic-sounding titles such as *Indian Garden* and *Shrine and Flag*. Such torpid creativity is not confined to the most senior. Whether he or she is borrowing from Fauvism or Minimalism, there is an artist somewhere in Scotland reworking the style without the conviction. In the land of the derivative, however, the competent is king: so we must applaud David McClure for

his assimilation of Manet's bold lessons about colour and shape, and Edward Sumner who, in a picture entitled *Western Medicine*, has managed to imitate the superficially naive late manner of Philip Guston so convincingly. Picasso's genius is a deforming influence under which to fall: as can be seen in several paintings by John Grant Clifford, late Picasso is especially treacherous.

Not everything is so uninspiring. Ian McCulloch, for example, leaps out and hijacks the attention with a picture such as *Albers and Alba*. McCulloch is an obstreperous artistic personality who, admittedly, owes something to the sophisticated primitivism of *art brut* and Dubuffet. But, by manipulating the caricature style of drawing annexed from psychotic art to his own symbolic purposes, he has invented an authentic voice.

Very few other pictures evince McCulloch's gritty integrity. A picture by Francis Convery, however, unnecessarily burdened with the pretentious title *North Sea (Daughter of a Colourist)*, betrays an innovative imagination at work, no matter that his approach to composition has been borrowed from Kiefer. And even Gordon Mitchell's *Bird Man*, an essay in poetic realism for which there is a multitude of precedence from Magritte to Andrew Wyeth, comes across as radical in the humdrum context of the academy.

This year the director of the National Galleries of Scotland, who controls the academy's headquarters, has decided to curtail the summer show's run by a month. Perhaps he was trying to make sure that fewer of the tourists who wander in off Princes Street go home with a misleading impression of contemporary painting in Scotland.

The 163rd Annual Exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy. The Mound, Edinburgh (031-225 6671), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm, until June 29.

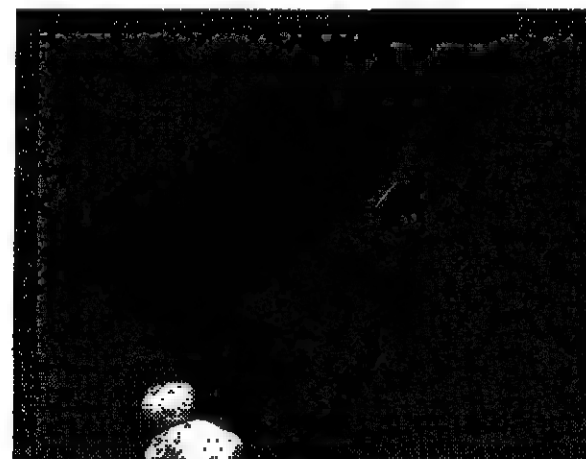
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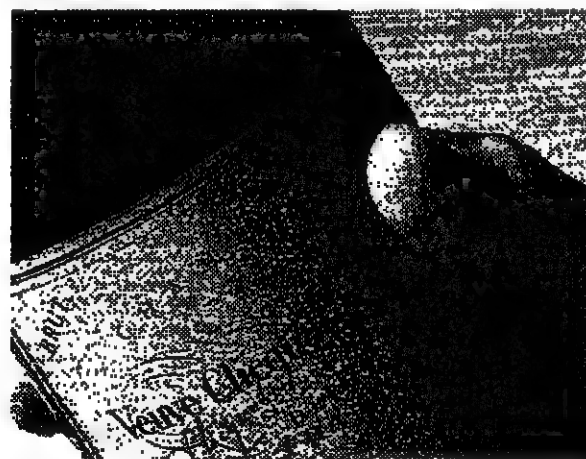
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CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW	21-24 May
GROSVENOR HOUSE ANTIQUES FAIR	13-22 June
ROYAL ASCOT	18-21 June
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	3-7 July
'GLORIOUS GOODWOOD'	30 July-3 August
COWES WEEK REGATTA	3 August-11 August
BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS	12-15 September
BLENHEIM INTERNATIONAL THREE DAY EVENT	26-29 September
PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE, LONGCHAMP	6 October



LA GRANDE DAME DE LA CHAMPAGNE

BRIEFING

Silent movies

HAVING stopped their audiences from smoking, American cinema managements are now trying to stop them talking. The campaign started in a nine-cinema complex in the newly restored Union Station in Washington DC. Before every performance a manager announces that talkers will receive a single warning. After a second offence they will be asked to leave, without refund. Police are on hand to ensure the offenders go quietly.

Whose shrew?

DOTTY conviction, or just a publicity ploy? The Rose Theatre, in London's Fulham Road, is marketing a revival of *The Taming of the Shrew* as by "Edward de Vere". "This company supports the opinion that the 17th Earl of Oxford is the true author of the works later published under the name William Shakespeare," it declares.

Last chance...

From Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat to *Aspects of Love*, "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" offers a 24-song survey of the great man's hits (nothing from *Jeeves*, his one flop), sung by his ex-wife Sarah Brightman. Last performance on Saturday at the Prince Edward (071-734 8951).

'Human sandwich' found in Thames

By NORMAN HAMMOND,
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A MYSTERIOUS burial wrapped in bark has been found on the banks of the Thames in the City of London. Believed to date to the Dark Ages, the burial's circumstances suggest that it was ritual or sacrificial.

The burial was found yesterday at Bull Wharf, just west of Southwark Bridge, by Museum of London archaeologists. It had been preserved by immersion in waterlogged riverbank deposits for at least a thousand years, they estimate. The human remains were found sandwiched between two large sheets of bark staked down on to the foreshore.

Experts are to examine the body this morning. It is thought that not only does the skeleton survive, but some of the softer tissues. Long, dark strands covering some bones are thought to be tendons.

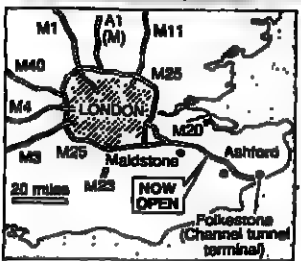
There are hopes that the stomach and its contents may have survived to give a clue to the deceased's last meal. In the case of "bog bodies" such as Lindow Man, in Cheshire, and Grauballe Man, in Denmark, some sort of ritual meal seems to have preceded execution and burial in the bog. Lindow Man is known to have eaten coarse griddle cakes made from wholemeal flour.

Although it is too early to say whether "Bull Wharf Person" was a sacrificial victim, the unusual rite and location of the burial are highly suggestive. Such "human sandwiches" are unknown in Britain, and the closest parallel that experts could think of yesterday was in Finland in the 8th to 10th centuries A.D.

The date of the Bull Wharf burial is at present known only to lie between the third and eleventh centuries, on the basis of the history of the Thames frontage established by the museum.

The Finnish connection, if substantiated, would put the burial into the latter part of that period, and effectively preclude close links with the bog burials of north-western Europe, which are centuries earlier.

It is possible, of course, that the Bull Wharf individual died a natural death. There is speculation that he was a crewman on a Baltic trading vessel that called at London — perhaps at Roman Londinium but more likely at the later city founded by Alfred the Great within the Roman walls — and was buried by his companions according to the rite of his distant homeland.



Clear view: Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, checks his rear mirror before setting out on the new M20 link in Kent with Christopher Chope, the roads minister, in a 1931 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost. Mr Rifkind and Mr Chope officially opened the 14.2-mile section, which completes the 50-mile motorway from Folke-

stone to Swanley, yesterday. The new link should ease congestion in areas such as Harrietsham, Leaburn and Charing, with traffic on the A20 expected to drop by 80 per cent. Mr Rifkind said: "It is now possible to travel by motorway all the way from the Channel to the Scottish border."



Baker says Saddam must go

Continued from page 1

into the international community. So long as Saddam remained in power, America could never have genuine peace with Iraq.

The Secretary of State's attack on Saddam came as Iraq agreed to withdraw its military and police forces from Dahuk, allowing Western forces to enter the city that was once home to most of the Kurds that fled to Turkey. An American spokesman at the Incirlik airbase in Turkey said a "small element of coalition forces" would enter Dahuk on Friday. Persuading residents to return is seen as vital to the success of the allies' plan for safe havens. Many residents of the provincial capital have come down from the mountains, but have been waiting in allied way stations till they feel it is safe to return to the city. Last week, most Iraqi forces left Dahuk and ten unarmed

UN guards went in to encourage the Kurds to return. But most refugees said they still wanted armed cover from Western forces because Saddam was certain to have left behind intelligence agents.

As the Dahuk breakthrough emerged, allied forces who went into the north to protect the refugees from Iraqi troops found themselves having to rescue one of Saddam's generals from a Kurdish lynch mob in the northern town of Zakho, the US military said yesterday.

Meanwhile, in a mysterious incident on Tuesday night, an American navy command ship in the central Gulf was fired on by two, small unidentified gunboats, but was not damaged and there were no injuries, the US defence department said. When the La Salle returned fire, the attacking vessels "fled north at a high rate of speed" but there

were no other details. Iran later complained that a US navy ship had attacked an Iranian boat in the Gulf, injuring a sailor and damaging a vessel. It too gave no other details. The Iranian news agency said an official protest had been made to the Swiss ambassador in Tehran, who looks after American interests there.

Bank governor gets 17% rise

Continued from page 1

himself with parsimonious increments of 4 per cent. In reaching their decision, the directors looked at comparable jobs in industry and the City and eventually agreed to place Mr Leigh-Pemberton marginally ahead of David Walker, the head of the Securities and Investment Board, who earns £150,000.

Other directors at the bank were even better rewarded for their services. The bank's total bill for directors' salaries has risen by 18 per cent to £951,000. All now earn more than £100,000. But, as a small recognition of the recession and inflationary pressures, two non-executive directors appear to have taken small pay cuts which have reduced

their stipends to less than £5,000 a year.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton's pay award pales in comparison with increases in the banking industry. Howard McDonald, the former head of NatWest's investment bank division, for instance, last year had his salary increased by 61 per cent to £498,000. The business had suffered a loss of £49 million.

Political sketch

News: outraged MPs bite dogs

OVER three decades, such evidence as exists suggests that the incidence of attacks by dogs on humans has remained fairly steady. Over the same period, a quick scan of *Hansard* indexes reveals that the word "dog" was mentioned in the Commons Chamber, on average, two or three times a week.

Yesterday, between 4.28 pm and 5.19 pm, the word was used 147 times, 103 of them by the home secretary. Also used by Mr Baker were "horrible" (six times), "dreadful" (twice), "tragic" (twice), and "vicious" (six times). The House was in one of its fits of outrage, interspersed with giggling and cries of "woof".

From Mr Baker we learned much. We learned that a "serious dog biting case" is not a case of being bitten by a serious dog. We learned (Roy Hattersley mused) that the government believes that the motive of the dog is a key factor: Mr Baker only wishes to ban dogs who bite by nature: those who bite despite themselves are excused.

We learned (and here I quote the home secretary, who adds daily to my education) that "if the dog is in fact neutered then there can in fact be no puppies". We learned that "it is not possible to define" the type of dog "by fingerprinting".

A highly acclaimed animal psychologist, we learned, had counselled Tory ministers and explained that "these animals are completely docile, one moment, then complete killers the next". Minutes later, general Mr Baker turned on Patrick Duffy and snarled (of a chap whose face had been bitten) "and I'll show you a picture of that man's face, because it doesn't exist".

From Tory backbenchers we learned more. From the massive Geoffrey Dickens we discovered that his dog-breeding past had taught him that "the vast majority of big breeds are lovely

natured completely". "I hadn't realised," replied the home secretary, "that my hon friend was a big breeder".

From Andrew Bowden, who had been talking to a "dog psychologist," we heard that "there is a vendetta against dogs", and from Patrick McNair-Wilson that there is a "hand-held device which repels dogs". Small bore? From Michael Colvin we learned that, as he spoke, there was, displayed at the Commons gate, a "pit-bull terrier called Holly, who has been spayed (sic)." It reminds me of the Alabama joke about the manservant who, told to get the cat spayed, mistook his instructions, flattened the animal with the back of a shovel, and declared "I sho' spayed dat pussy".

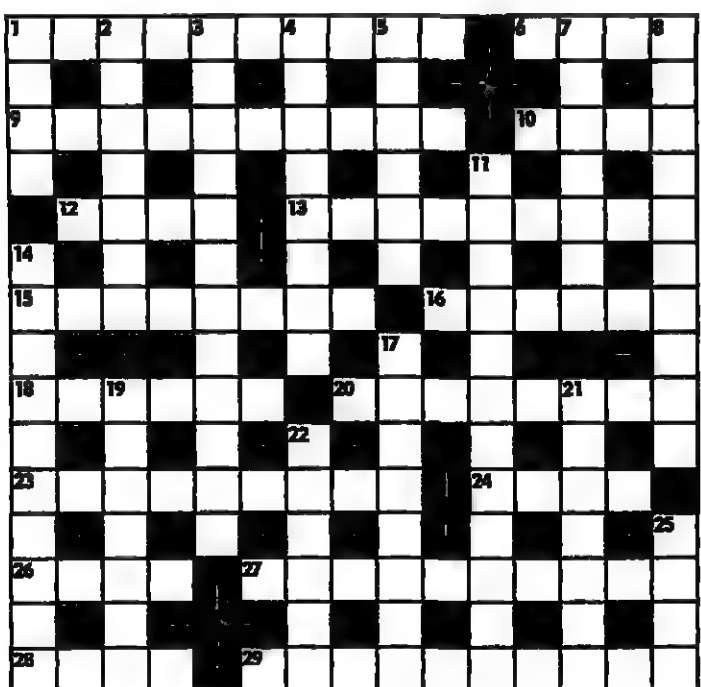
Anthony Beaumont-Dark told us that "the interbreeding of these dogs is a time bomb which is just about coming home". Andrew Hargreaves gravely told MPs that some dogs attack children "during their feeding". As their feeding, surely?

Meanwhile, from the other side, Labour's legislative programme mushroomed. To pit-bulls and Tosas (already for the chop) were added "Rottweilers" (Mr Hattersley's tentative suggestion) and dobermans (Bob Cryer), a "complete Dogs Act," and "a neutering programme" for "dogs in society" (Terry Lewis), "neighbourhood watch schemes" (Mr Duffy) and "a national network of dog wardens" (John McAllister). Then the Tories' Jim Lester proposed a dog "third party insurance" scheme. What about a fully comprehensive one? Or fire, theft and subsidence at least?

The whole thing was now spinning wildly out of control. If anybody's pet gerbil should go feral and bite its owner over the bank holiday, then heaven help us all.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,613



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

SYNECDOCHE
a. The trochic trimeter
b. A committee of synd
c. Part for the whole

SABULOUS
a. Bilious
b. Cerebral
c. Gritty like sand

AGNOTAGE
a. Money changing
b. The age of discretion
c. Having long ears

MOLLAGE
a. Moll's wares
b. Claven hooved beasts
c. Talking footprints

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National

West Midlands 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

East Anglia 740

North-west England 741

North-east England 742

Scotland 743

Northern Ireland 744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

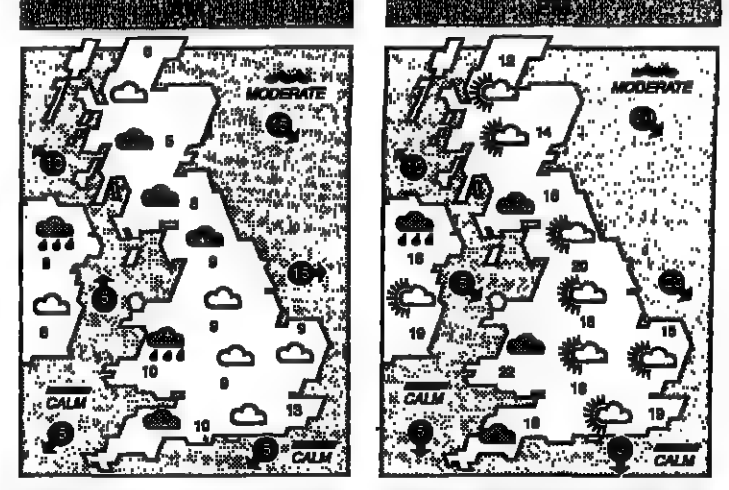
Scotland will start the day bright, but cool. Cloud over Northern Ireland and the border counties of Scotland will spread south to affect Wales and some other western areas. Southern and eastern areas will be mainly dry and bright, but with a lot of cloud at times. It will feel fresher than yesterday, especially along the east coast. Outlook: dry with a good deal of sunshine after cloudiness in the west.

MIDDAY: In-humidity: C=cloudy; F=fog; S=sunny; W=windy; L=light; H=heavy; O=overcast; R=rain	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud	Wind	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100
Abertawe	18	SE	65	100	10	18	SE	65	100

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0888 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast	Region	Forecast
Greater London	701	Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702	Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703	Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704	Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset	705	Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706	Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707	Beds, Herts & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708	North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire	709	West Mid & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710	Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710
Central Midlands	711	Central Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712	Lincoln & Humberside	712
East Midlands	713	East Midlands	713
W & S Yorks & Dales	714	W & S Yorks & Dales	714
N E England	715	N E England	715
Cumbria & Lake District	716	Cumbria & Lake District	716
S W Scotland	717	S W Scotland	717
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	718	Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	718
E Central Scotland	719	E Central Scotland	719
Grampian & E Highlands	720	Grampian & E Highlands	720
N W Scotland	721	N W Scotland	721
North, Shetland, Orkney & Shetland	722	North, Shetland, Orkney & Shetland	722
N Ireland	723	N Ireland	723

Weathercall is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

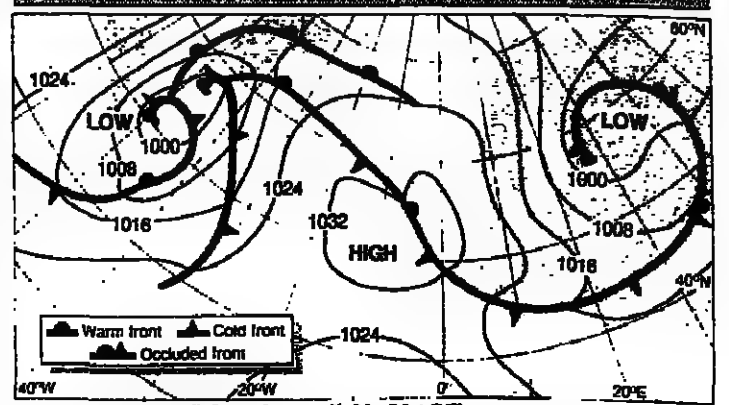


Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100
14	SE	65	100	14	SE	65	100

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Beds, Herts & Essex	707	Beds, Herts & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708	North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire	709	West Mid & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710	Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710
Central Midlands	711	Central Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712	Lincoln & Humberside	712
East Midlands	713	East Midlands	713
W & S Yorks & Dales	714	W & S Yorks & Dales	714
N E England	715	N E England	715
Cumbria & Lake District	716	Cumbria & Lake District	716
S W Scotland	717	S W Scotland	717
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	718	Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	718
E Central Scotland	719	E Central Scotland	719
Grampian & E Highlands	720	Grampian & E Highlands	720
N W Scotland	721	N W Scotland	721
North, Shetland, Orkney & Shetland	722	North, Shetland, Orkney & Shetland	722
N Ireland	723	N Ireland	723

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

THURSDAY MAY 23 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 33
- SPRING WEDDINGS 34
- LAW 35
- SPORT 36-40

Taunton Cider sold by Bass

TAUNTON Cider, which has 33 per cent of the British cider market, has been sold to a management-led group in a £100 million deal. Bass and Courage, which each owned 41 per cent and Scottish & Newcastle, which owned 9 per cent, will receive a total of £73 million, with the remaining funds being available for expansion.

Bass, Britain's biggest beer group, reported a 15.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £209 million for the 28 weeks to April 13 on turnover down 0.7 per cent to £2.25 billion. Earnings per share dropped 18 per cent to 42.1p but the interim dividend rises by 10 per cent to 9.5p, as forecast.

Coral, the bookmaking business for which Bass has invited offers, suffered a £5 million hit last October and November when an unusual number of favourites won races. Comment, page 27

Devenish links with Whitbread

JA Devenish, the brewer fighting a takeover bid from Boddington, has unveiled a £9.75 million supply agreement with Whitbread for its 400 public houses and confirmed it is to withdraw from brewing. Devenish said it was negotiating the separate sale of the loss-making brewery in Redruth, Cornwall, but it would close no later than September 15, with the loss of 150 jobs, if the talks failed.

The estimated net extraordinary loss will be £5.5 million, after taking into account the payment from Whitbread, if the brewery closes. Boddington criticised the deal, saying that Devenish had "mortgaged its future".

RHM level

Ranks Hovis McDougall is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 3.82p after reporting flat pre-tax profits of £76.5 million (£76.9 million) for the six months ended March 22. RHM says conditions are likely to remain difficult in the second half. *Times*, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7290 (-0.0105)
German mark 2.9713 (-0.0025)
Exchange index 91.9 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share 1833.4 (-9.1)
FT-SE 100 2465.9 (-16.8)
New York Dow Jones 2904.74 (-1.34)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25398.66 (-82.55)

CLOSING PRICES

FTSE 100 2465.9 (-16.8)
FTSE 250 2465.9 (-16.8)
FTSE 100 2465.9 (-16.8)
FTSE 250 2465.9 (-16.8)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4%
3-month single bill 11 1/2-11 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.48-5.47%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7290
DM: £1.7215
Sfr: £1.4850
FF: £1.0450
Yen: £138.00
Index: 91.9
ECU: £0.68440
SDR: £0.77835
ECU: £1.44168
SDR: £1.288103

GOLD

London: New York
AM 535.75 pm 535.75
close 535.75-537.25 (2206.60-2063.0)
New York
Comex 537.25-537.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.1 April (1987-100)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Jun) £18.70 bid (\$18.50)
Discount latest trading price

Hanson keeps options open after meeting Henderson

By ANGELA MACKAY

ICI has met Lord Hanson to discuss his unexpected acquisition of a 2.82 per cent in the British chemicals group.

A statement from ICI said a meeting took place this week at which Lord Hanson, who chairs the industrial conglomerate hearing his name, repeated that his acquisition of ICI shares had been made for investment purposes. ICI added that Hanson was keeping its options open, but no further meetings were planned.

The meeting on Tuesday morning was suggested by Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman of ICI, apparently against the wishes of his advisers, SG Warburg, the

merchant bank. Held at ICI's private offices at Smith Square, central London, the 2 1/2-hour talk was described by sources as amiable.

Hanson refused to comment on ICI's statement. But it is thought that Lord Hanson told Sir Denis he wished to make a positive contribution to ICI as its second biggest shareholder after the Prudential.

Despite this reassurance, ICI is unlikely to relax its vigilance. The company has long had contingency plans to fend off predators. These proposals are likely to be hastened to discourage a bid from Hanson. ICI's armoury has been boosted by

Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank that helped BAT Industries defy Sir James Goldsmith and Storehouse fend off Asher Edelman.

It is unlikely, however, that a full bid, which must cost at least £12 billion and take several months, is envisaged by 69-year-old Lord Hanson, as a swan song to his long career.

Moreover, regulatory hoops in Britain and Brussels would consume valuable time. A more likely scenario is for Lord Hanson to use his 2.8 per cent stake to encourage ICI to sell some of its assets, such as ICI Pharmaceuticals or the company's Floxide subsidiary. Hanson is reluctant to comment on its intentions for

fear of committing itself before the regulators.

It is possible that ICI's statement yesterday was partly designed to draw some response from its new shareholder. ICI would not say why it felt the statement necessary.

Shares in ICI have been drifting lower over the past few days as bid fever abated. Yesterday, the price closed 6p lower at £12.26 still more than one pound above the price quoted just before Smith New Court, Hanson's broker, started accumulating the stake nine days ago.

Lord Hanson's machinations have often puzzled the market and frustrated his shareholders, who have seen similar

lightning attacks on companies such as Midland Bank and, most recently, PowerGen come to nothing.

With interest rates easing in the United Kingdom, it becomes less attractive for Hanson to hold its £7 billion cash pile. The differential is narrowing between interest rates in America, where Hanson has the bulk of its borrowings, and the UK, so it is possible that it is time some of the cash was put to work to try and boost the shortfall.

By taking a stake in ICI, Lord Hanson has boosted the share price and drawn out the arbitrageurs. The next phase will see prospective buyers move quickly to register interest in parts of ICI now that the group is on the offensive.

Service sector decline accelerates

Britain slides deeper into recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE economy sank deeper into recession in the first quarter, as the slide in the service sector accelerated, offsetting a sharp rise in production of North Sea oil. But Treasury officials and some City economists welcomed the figures published yesterday for the first quarter gross domestic product, saying they indicated a gradual reduction in the economy's rate of decline.

The preliminary measure of GDP fell by 0.6 per cent in the first quarter, compared with the final three months of last year, and was 2.5 per cent lower than a year earlier. The figures were less bad than some City estimates and were consistent with the Treasury's internal forecasts. But they dispelled the hopes of many economists outside the government that the recession would prove shallower than the Chancellor's grim Budget prediction.

Analysts were divided on what implications there might be for interest rate policy, although consensus opinion in the City continued to favour a half-point reduction tomorrow, especially after further attacks on government policy from industrialists and an offer from the Halifax Building Society to review its charging structure if the Chancellor sanctioned one more cut in rates.

City analysts had on average expected a fall of 0.9 per cent, according to MMS Inter-

national, the financial consulting firm. But the Bank of England indicated last week that the economy might already have reached its turning point and some economists questioned whether the first quarter's GDP would decline at all. Goldman Sachs, for example, predicted a fall of only 0.1 per cent in the first quarter.

Treasury officials said such hopes had never seemed realistic and yesterday's figures were consistent with the Chancellor's Budget forecast. This pointed to a fall of 2 per cent in GDP for 1991 as a whole. Officials also expressed confidence that economic growth would resume in the second half of this year, although it was too early to say whether the positive growth would become visible in the third or fourth quarter.

The first quarter's 0.6 per cent fall in output was smaller than the drops of 0.9 per cent and 1.4 per cent registered in the previous two quarters. But the decline in the service sector accelerated, even as manufacturing and energy output showed signs of bottoming out.

Services make up 58 per cent of the economy, while manufacturing accounts for 24 per cent and energy and water supply, 11 per cent. Details of other sectors, including construction and agriculture, are not published in the preliminary GDP release.

Output in the service industries fell by 0.7 per cent in the first three months of the year, compared with declines of 0.3 and 0.4 per cent in the

previous two quarters. Service output was 1.6 per cent down on a year earlier.

Manufacturing output, which tends to be much more volatile than service activity, fell by 1.1 per cent in the latest quarter, compared with previous declines of 3.1 and 2.1 per cent. Manufacturing was 5.1 per cent below the level a year ago. In the energy and water industries, which are less affected by macro-economic conditions, output rose 2.9 per cent in the latest period, after rising 3.1 per cent in the previous quarter and falling 7.6 per cent in the quarter before. Energy and water output was 2.8 per cent up on the year.

Halifax Building Society, meanwhile, said that borrowers on its budget plan scheme will have to ask for their payments to be reduced as the society says it has too many customers to write to them individually. Customers on the scheme had their payments set for the year on February 1, when the mortgage rate was 14.5 per cent. The Halifax's standard variable rate is now 12.95 per cent.

The Halifax budget plan scheme usually requires a 3 per cent move up or down for payments to be amended during the course of the year. The society said that another rate cut would bring rates close to this. The Halifax said the decision to cut payments for borrowers if they wished had been taken a fortnight ago but denied that it had been under pressure from borrowers to move.

Share surge forces bid

By MATTHEW BOND

GRAMPIAN Holdings, the Scottish conglomerate, unveiled a £56.5 million bid for Macarthy, the pharmaceuticals group, in an after hours announcement.

The bid, however, does not appear to have been a well kept secret. In the run up to the International Stock Exchange's 4.30pm close, the Macarthy share price rose 24p to 192p, an increase of 14.3 per cent.

A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank that is advising Gramplan, said that given the increase in the Macarthy share price, it had been considered "right

and proper" to make an announcement at the earliest opportunity.

For every five ordinary Macarthy shares, Gramplan is offering eight new convertible preference shares plus one ordinary share. Gramplan shares were 2p better at 185p before the announcement, valuing each Macarthy share at 206.6p.

The Macarthy board rejected the bid, describing it as "clearly inadequate".

According to Gramplan, the bid values Macarthy shares on a multiple of 17.8 times earnings per share for the year to September 29.

Gramplan's activities range from transport to sporting goods and retailing, but its biggest contributor to profits is its pharmaceutical business, which specialises in veterinary drugs.

The Gramplan bid comes almost three years after Macarthy unsuccessfully mounted a bid for UniChem. Macarthy subsequently struggled to put what turned into a controversial bid behind it.

The circular accompanying Gramplan's bid describes Macarthy's five-year track record as "one of sub-standard performance, inconsistent results and a muddled strategy".



Winning streak: Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chief executive, set to score \$6.5 million in club sale

Man Utd chief nets £6.5m from sale

By MARTIN BARROW

MANCHESTER United, the football club, is coming to the stock market with a price tag of £46.8 million by way of a placing and offer for sale. One week after United claimed victory in the lucrative European Cup Winners' Cup, the club is offering almost 4.7 million shares at 385p each, raising a total of £16.5 million after costs.

United will receive £6.7 million towards redevelopment of part of the club's stadium at Old Trafford. The balance will go to existing shareholders, including Martin Edwards, the chief executive, who will receive about £5.5 million.

City response to the offer was muted yesterday, mainly due to delays in distributing the prospectus.

Up to 36 per cent of the shares are being offered to the public, with a minimum investment of £192.50 for 50 shares. Almost 2.1 million shares have already been placed with financial institutions. The offer closes on May 31 and dealings are expected to begin on June 10.

United has forecast profits before tax and transfer fees of £6.06 million for the year to end July, compared with £2.38 million in the previous 12 months. Most of the increase is attributed to the club's success in Europe, which boosted gates and increased income from advertising and television. A dividend of 17.4p a share has been forecast, implying a gross yield of 6 per cent.

WH Smith seeks £148m

By OUR CITY STAFF

WH SMITH, the high street retail group, is selling its two loss-making businesses and launching a £148 million rights issue to fund a £300 million development programme.

The group has forecast it will make an £88.5 million profit in the year to end June, when the losses from the disposals are discounted, up from £86 million last year. The final dividend on the 'A' shares will be 8.5p, up 13 per cent.

The company is selling WHSTV, its television company, for £65 million. The

buyers are the co-shareholders in the European Sports Network, including Compagnie Générale des Eaux, Canal Plus, Capital Cities, and ABC. The television company, which owns 19.5 per cent of Yorkshire Television, is expected to make a £5.1 million loss this year.

WH Smith is also negotiating to sell its travel agency to Carlson Travel Network and AT Mays, for an estimated £8.5 million.

Smith said the proceeds of the disposals and rights issue would allow it to invest in its core business. The company is

spending £300 million in three years.

The plans include the development of Our Price, Wee Three, and Wall to Wall, the record shops chains in Britain and America. Smith also hopes to open 100 more video shops by 1994 and buy the remainder of the shares of Waterstone's, the bookseller.

Apart from these developments, the company wants to expand its core high street chain and invest in freehold property while values remain depressed.

Times, page 27

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Net assets fall 22.6% at LandSec

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LAND Securities, Britain's largest quoted property group, has cut 22.6 per cent off its previously published net asset value per share, from 867p to 671p at March 31.

Group properties have been valued at £4.7 billion, down £1 billion, a fall that reflects depressed conditions in the property market.

Peter Hunt, chairman of LandSec, says he is "disappointed" with the net asset value, but adds that pre-tax profits in the year exceeded £200 million for the first time in the group's history. They rose from £175.1 million to £215.2 million. Net rental income was 21.1 per cent higher at £316 million.

The final dividend rises to 14.25p (12.25p), for an annual 19.75p (17p). LandSec shares fell 9p to 521p.

Valuation of West End and Victoria properties was 16.6 per cent lower, while that for City properties was 27.5 per cent lower. Figures for shops and offices elsewhere in Britain showed a 15.4 per cent fall, out of town retail properties were valued 20.6 per cent lower, and those of industry and warehouse properties were 11.1 per cent down. Mr Hunt said: "Excessive

bank lending on property has to be reduced and the over-supply of accommodation, particularly in the City, absorbed."

He expects stability and growth will return to the property market once the economy recovers and confidence is restored.

In the short term, however, the level of empty properties, equivalent to less than 2 per cent of the annual rent roll, and of irrecoverable outgoings will increase.

The group's financial position remains strong, although LandSec says this will be a year of consolidation. Interest on short-term deposits will fall as capital is spent, although development and refurbishment income will grow substantially, Mr Hunt added.

The 25 development and refurbishment projects completed in the year are virtually fully let and produce a net rental annual income of nearly £25 million. A further 13 projects are expected to generate £32 million annually once they start producing revenue.

Contracted capital commitments at March 31 of £186.4 million are expected to be spent over the next two years.



Serving higher profits: Simon Bentley, chairman

Blacks pursues £4.7m

BLACKS Leisure, the sport and fashion retailer and wholesaler, is raising £4.7 million via a two-for-five rights issue of new shares at 62p. Existing shares rose 4p to 87p.

The proceeds will be used to make two final payments, worth £1.7 million and due by August, to Teesside Sports, and to reduce borrowings.

After the cash call, gearing will fall from 112 per cent to less than 60 per cent.

Blacks, where Simon Bentley is chairman, made pre-tax profits of £3.5 million (£1 million) in for the year to March 2. Earnings were 12.64p (3.83p) a share. A final dividend of 2.25p (nil) makes 3.25p (1p) for the year.

BAT makes £20m provision for tax

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BAT Industries has, for the first time, made a provision of £20 million for unrelieved advance corporation tax (ACT) within its end March quarterly tax charge of £97 million.

It has also made a further £5 million provision against now-discontinued lines of insurance business written by Eagle Star. Eagle Star's dis-

continued property indemnity insurance business has already cost BAT £175 million in the year ended December, and BAT said yesterday that it was not yet out of the woods.

The higher tax charge, equivalent to an effective 43.5 per cent (42.1 per cent), stems from the changed nature of the group after the demerger of Argos and Wiggins Teape Appleton, which in turn has changed the mix of earnings in Britain.

BAT now concentrates on tobacco and financial services. The company yesterday reported that pre-tax profits from continuing operations had advanced from £159 million to £223 million in the three months ended March, on a turnover of £4.17 billion, up from £4.11 billion.

Tobacco volumes grew by 5 per cent, and tobacco's quarterly trading profit was 22 per cent up at £191 million.

Trading profit from financial services rose from £79 million to £115 million in the quarter.

Eagle Star's overall trading loss of £9 million was an improvement over the comparable period of last year.

But underwriting results were again unsatisfactory, with losses of £113 million compared with £99 million in the previous period.

BAT Industries will consider a first interim dividend on May 29.

The shares fell 4p to 699p.

CU reports £24m loss for quarter

FIGURES from Commercial Union have confirmed the gloomy state of Britain's insurance industry. The insurer suffered a £24.2 million loss in the first three months of the year.

Tony Bland, the chief executive, blamed the loss on unacceptably low premium rates, particularly in Britain. General Accident and Royal Insurance, earlier reported combined losses of almost £140 million for the quarter.

The group was helped by a good performance from Delta Lloyd, its Dutch subsidiary, which increased profits by 45 per cent to £15.4 million, although losses in the rest of continental Europe grew 10 per cent to £8 million. The American business recovered to a £3.2 million profit from a £200,000 loss.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scapa seeks £55.6m to curb borrowings

SCAPA Group, which engineers fabrics for papermaking, is to raise £55.6 million through a one-for-four rights issue at 137p a share to cut borrowings.

In the year to end March pre-tax profit dipped 6 per cent to £42.7 million on turnover up 2 per cent to £291 million. British operating profits were slightly up at £14.5 million and other territories contributed £3.4 million (£7 million) but North American profits fell £3.9 million to £25.5 million. Earnings per share fell from 16.6p to 15.7p per share. The dividend is up 5 per cent to 5.26p per share. Over the past five years dividends have risen by an average of 11.4 per cent a year. Shares fell 8p to 150p.

Japanese bank head resigns

THE president of Japan's eighth-largest bank has resigned as the second victim of the country's latest financial scandal. Takeo Masuno, the head of Kyowa Saitama Bank, left after taking responsibility for lending money indirectly to a stock speculator who has been charged with extorting money from Janome Sewing Machine.

Westerly calls in receivers

WESTERLY, which last Friday announced it had closed down yacht production at its Westerly Yachts subsidiary in Hampshire, has called in the receivers at Westerly Yachts. The company requested its bankers to appoint receivers after demands were received for immediate repayment of the subsidiary's overdraft of about £2.3 million.

UniChem swaps

UNICHEM, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, has completed its first move into Europe with a share swap giving it a 17 per cent stake in FAG Pharma-Holdings, a publicly quoted company in Germany whose sole asset is a 30 per cent stake in Anzag, that country's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler.

The shares acquired, together with the holdings of OPG of The Netherlands and Ega-Wipac of Germany, long-established business partners of UniChem, will give the consortium control of FAG. The deal involves the British company exercising an option to acquire shares in FAG in exchange for its own shares.

Lionheart to buy Sloane

LIONHEART, the mini-conglomerate with interests in home improvements, do-it-yourself and housewares, has agreed to buy the Sloane Group, a maker of retail display systems, for £5.75 million in new shares. Lionheart is also raising £750,000 of cash through an issue to fund the acquisition and integration of Sloane.

ANZ falls 59% at interim

ANZ, Australia's leading banking group, suffered a 59 per cent fall in interim net operating profits to end March to A\$129 million (£57.7 million). The group was hit by a A\$156 million loss in Australian banking mainly due to bad debts in Victoria. ANZ worldwide provisions rose 134 per cent to A\$523 million in the period.

Courtaulds keeps mum

COURTAULDS, the speciality materials maker that demerged its textiles activities last year, has made provisions of £68.7 million against further restructuring in the current year (Martin Barrow writes). The group did not provide a breakdown of restructuring costs and Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman and chief executive, declined to say whether substantial redundancies were likely.

The provisions are taken as an extraordinary cost and add to those of £42 million changed in the previous year. In the 12 months to end March, the first full year since demerger, Courtaulds made pre-tax profits of £186.3 million, compared with a pre-tax profit of £168.1 million last year.

Earnings rose to 36.5p (32p) a share. A final dividend of 8.6p is recommended, making 12p (11.1p) for the year.

The provisions are taken as an extraordinary cost and add to those of £42 million changed in the previous year. In the 12 months to end March, the first full year since demerger, Courtaulds made pre-tax profits of £186.3 million, compared with a pre-tax profit of £168.1 million last year.

COMPANY BRIEFS

WHESSE (Int) Pre-tax £3.09m (£2.71m) EPS: 10.9p (9.6p) Div: 2p (1.75p)	Turnover grew to £25.2m (£22.5m). Company says it has a healthy order book and substantial liquidity, enabling further progress.
JOHN FOSTER (Fin) Pre-tax Loss £2.24 EPS: 14p (EPS: 9p) Div: 0.5p (0.5p)	Last time's profit was £7.26m. Exceptional debit of £576,000 (nil). Return to profit is not expected until second half of year.
CHAMBERLIN & HILL (Fin) Pre-tax £1.59m (£2.36m) EPS: 16.84p (£24.41p) Div: 4p, mkg 5.75p	Last time's total dividend was 5.75p. Group has entered current year at a significantly lower level of activity than that of last year.
DUNEDIN WORLDWIDE Pre-tax £2.03m (£2.08m) EPS: 4.17p (4.3p) Div: 2.4p (2.4p)	Interim results. Net asset value at April 30 was 578.9p per ordinary share (467.4p six months earlier). Total revenue £3.88m (£3.47m).
ALBION (Int) Pre-tax £339,000 EPS: 6.53p (7.36p) Div: 1.2p (1.4p)	Last time's profit was £484,000. Turnover rose to £7.08m (£5.78m), but during the second half growth in sales will be less dramatic.
BAGGERIDGE BRICK (Int) Pre-tax £1.07m (£2.58m) EPS: 1.79p (4.25p) Div: 0.75p (0.75p)	Turnover fell to £13.3m (£15.9m). Company said trading has been extremely difficult, although all the factories traded profitably.
FERRY PICKERING (Int) Pre-tax £1.20m (£1.16m) EPS: 6.10p (6.07p) Div: 2.1p (2.1p)	Turnover rose to £15.1m (£13.9m). Company said climate continues to be difficult, but group well placed to take advantage of any upturn.
JAMES CREAM (Fin) Pre-tax £19.8m (£21.5m) EPS: 45.1p (63.3p) Div: 18.3415p (17.8265p)	All figures in Irish currency. Extraordinary gains of £2.32m, net of tax. Net interest costs were £2.74m (£1.51m).
BIO-ISOLATES (Fin) Pre-tax £278,000 EPS: 1.7p (0.32p) Div: Nil	Last time's loss was £5,000. The company said it now wishes to expand and diversify its business.
YORK WATERWORKS Pre-tax £2.11m (£1.07m) EPS: 19.8p (N/A) Div: 2.75p, mkg 8.75p	Turnover grew to £3.95m (£2.23m). The company said it now wishes to expand and diversify its business. Results are for a 15-month period, compared with previous 12 months. Exceptional debit of £47,000 (£57,000 last time).

"An encouraging set of results."

THREE MONTHS RESULTS

£1=\$1.91 for 1991 (\$1.79 for 1990)

Three months to March

1990

1991

Change

CONTINUING GROUP TURNOVER
(including Farmers' exchanges)

£4,108m

£4,170m

+2%

PRE-TAX PROFIT

£159m

£223m

+40%

EARNINGS PER SHARE

5.3p

7.7p

+45%

● Quality of Group businesses demonstrated by encouraging performance in difficult times for world economy.

● Tobacco: volumes up 5 per cent. Trading profit of £191m.

● Financial services: Farmers, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star Life performed well. Eagle Star's underwriting results unsatisfactory.

● Board to consider declaring first interim dividend on 29 May, at a meeting before Annual General Meeting.

● "The Group's first quarter's results are encouraging and I will comment more fully on our prospects at the AGM."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman



BAT INDUSTRIES

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, BAT Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

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EC flexes its takeover muscles

COMMENT

The European Commission has been patiently awaiting a suitable moment for its infant monopolies and merger authority to take a stand on the European takeover scene. Judging by yesterday's celebrations in the Berlymont building, the Commission's Brussels headquarters, the day has finally arrived. The commission has effectively blocked moves by Fiat towards a stranglehold over the French market for car batteries.

Only after Fiat agreed to sell its French battery-making subsidiary, the commission agreed to give the green light for Fiat's proposed acquisition of the battery division of Alcatel, the French power and electronics group.

But the implications of the commission's decision go far beyond the market for batteries in France.

From September onwards when the commission obtained the right to vet large cross-border mergers, officials were aware that the new authority would not be taken seriously until it had taken been seen to flex its muscles and deliver a tough ruling. The high

profile car industry is a well chosen arena for such a display of strength.

So far, most investigations resulted in little more than slight modifications of a deal. Yesterday's decision was more substantial, for the commission forced Fiat to dispose of a subsidiary or otherwise risk the whole deal. Fiat eventually capitulated. The winning and dining of commission officials, that has taken place in Turin, proved of little avail.

The commission has in this case followed a principle of legal ethics: It is insufficient for justice to be done; it must seem to be done. With Fiat, one of Europe's largest and most prestigious companies, in the dock, the commission has achieved its objective.

The experience must have come as a shock for Fiat, which through a mixture of Italian protectionism and lack of domestic competition policy

succeeded in building a virtual monopoly in the Italian car market, of a kind that would not have been acceptable in Britain, one of the few European countries which have a domestic merger authority. The Fiat/Alcatel investigation also marks the first time that a Southern European company has gone into battle with the Brussels merger police.

The next big landmark for the commission will be the outright blocking of a merger. There are no immediate prospects of that happening. Not only will the commission have to make a water-tight case, it will also have to be able to withstand the ensuing political pressure.

Whatever that target may be, it is unlikely to be Hanson. Commission officials are already known to have done their turn-

over and market share sums on Europe's chemical industry, just in case Hanson decides to launch his bid for ICI. But privately, they admit that while the EC is probably the appropriate authority to investigate the merger, ICI is unlikely to be the next "test case".

Bass baffles

Investors used to like the brewing industry because it was readily understandable and enjoyed steady growth. Not any more. Bass, the biggest, is now most out of favour partly because it has been undergoing some most baffling changes, notably the £2 billion acquisition of Holiday Inns worldwide, and more immediately because of its £558 million rights issue, which

did not go down well in the City. A 15.6 per cent drop in first half profits, though not unexpected, will hardly help the image even though Ian Prosser, the chairman, expects the full year figures to look better.

Disappointingly, turnover in the group's public houses fell 4 per cent, leading to a 10 per cent fall in profit to £115 million as public houses were sold to cope with the government ruling and the group lost market share.

The hotel side looked much better in dollars than in sterling, where profits fell 11 per cent on a 4 per cent drop in turnover. Occupancy fell, but not drastically given the American and British recessions and the division is in the throes of re-organisation and expansion. The jury will be out on this for some time.

Leisure was hit by the one-off autumn crop of winning favourites, with profits otherwise flat at £24 million. But this division may look very different after the

acquisition of Granada's bingo business and the likely sale of the Coral bookmaking side.

Only the brewing business, which performed well outside the tied trade, looked steady with a 2 per cent drop in profits to £77 million. The group seems to have made more progress than some in non-public house beer marketing, for instance with the introduction of canned draught Bass. All the tied-house brewers, however, seem at a primitive stage compared with Guinness and other spirits or branded food groups.

Bass shares sell at only about 11 times likely full year earnings and yield 4.9 per cent on the expected dividend. That should prove cheap in the long run, provided the suspicions caused by the government's eccentric reforms and the group's own actions are gradually dispelled.

So far, the structural changes following from the government rules have proved nothing like what was expected.

Both Bass and what used to be the brewing industry seem destined for many more changes before the outlook is at all clear.

Time to redial numbers on Vodafone demerger

The City seems blind to the fact that Racal will still be valuable, even without cellular phones

IN THREE weeks, Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racal Electronics, is due to unveil details of one of the biggest corporate demergers in history. Short of the complexities, he is giving back to his shareholders a stake worth £3 billion in Racal Telecom, the Vodafone business.

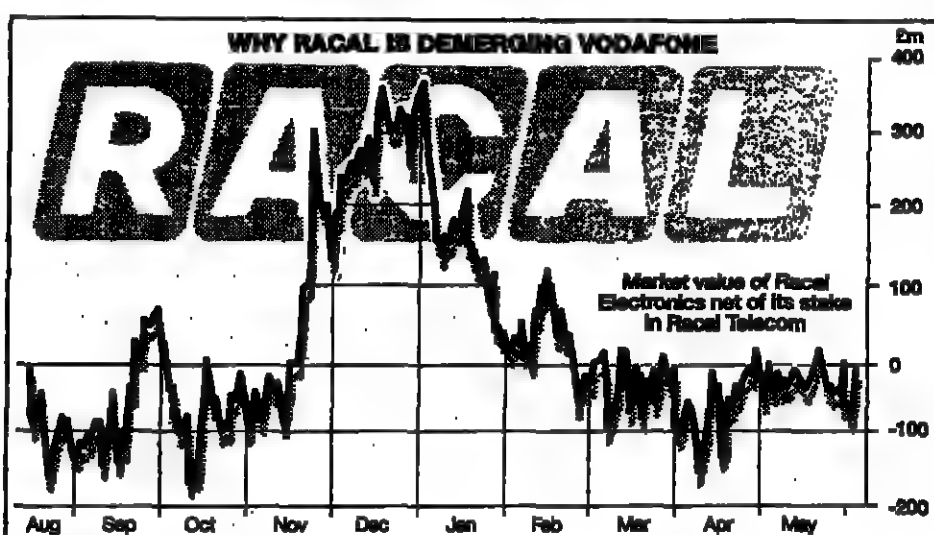
What happens afterwards could reshape Britain's telecommunications industry for Vodafone will no longer be protected by the 80 per cent holding jealously guarded by its parent company.

This is no routine shakeout with all the usual problems. Vodafone, and its allied companies in RT, is one of the most remarkable successes of British industry in the Eighties. From a standing start in 1983, RT has become a highly profitable business, set to make more than £270 million this year and with years of growth ahead.

With profits on a strongly rising curve, RT is a prize which might well attract bidders, such as Bell South, the American phone group, and several European companies, eyeing up a rare chance to buy state-of-the-art cellular technology plus a dominant and profitable stake in the British mobile phone market. Even Cable & Wireless has privately expressed interest in Vodafone despite the problems of paying handsomely for a second cellular phone licence when it has one already.

But perhaps the most remarkable feature of the demerger is that the City is treating it like a non-event.

The potential benefits to Racal Electronics shareholders are considerable. Yet the group's share price still implies a negative value to the group's non-cellular interests after stripping out the market value of RT holdings. Yesterday, the whole of Racal Electronics was valued at £2.9 billion by the market yet its 80 per cent stake in RT alone is



worth almost £3 billion.

This arithmetic aberration clearly cannot last forever. By September, with the RT shares given back to investors, Racal Electronics' non-cellular operations will have a stand-alone value which cannot be negative. They are expected to make £35 million this year, and perhaps £70 million next. Barring any surprises next month, the market appears to have its wires crossed and its calculators switched off.

At this late stage, Sir Ernest and his advisers can be forgiven for any sense of déjà vu. It was precisely his frustration

implied worth of these was about £350 million. Astonishingly, though investors have been told to expect demerger details in June, the old negative valuation was re-established in the new year. By April, it was as high as ever.

Determining exactly why the market has been so unwilling to recognise the potential value in Racal Electronics is not easy. In part it may be that the severity of the recession, a slowdown in growth in the cellular phone market and concern over the tax complexities of the demerger led to the view it would not proceed. But the analysts who follow Racal

ings is the largest cause for concern. RT was floated free of debt, even though much of it was incurred in the expensive build-up phase of the Vodafone network. It is a heavy burden for Racal Electronics to bear and the full market value of the non-cellular interests will not be realised until it is resolved. RT may well acquire one or more businesses from Racal Electronics and take part of the debt away. But these inter-company transactions must be seen to be fair to both parties and satisfy both boards, including yet to be appointed non-executive directors.

There are other uncertainties. It is by no means clear that the original proposals for a three-way split of Racal Electronics will proceed according to initial expectations. The intention to demerge the Chubb security businesses may well have been held up by lower than expected profits in the year to last March. Chubb's sales of locks and alarm systems depend heavily on the recession-hit construction industry. The third step, a management buy-out of Racal's remaining electronics businesses after the Chubb demerger, now looks more difficult than it did last autumn. Betting in the City is that it will be pushed back to 1992.

But it will indeed be a surprise if the RT demerger has been derailed. Sir Ernest would by now have made that public. On that basis alone the next few weeks should see activity in Racal Electronics shares as the market at last begins to seriously assess the value to be unlocked in the demerger.

JOHN BELL

'Barring any surprises, the market appears to have its wires crossed and its calculators switched off'

at this discount factor, putting a negative value on some substantial assets, that led to the demerger proposal in the first place. As our chart shows, the implied negative value has been absurdly high in the past year, reaching minus £150 million in the autumn before the demerger plan was launched on an unsuspecting, but subsequently suspicious, City. Events since November's announcement, however, have been much more confusing.

The first response was a return to rational valuation. The chart shows clearly that the market turned on a sixpence and marked up Racal Electronics shares to reflect the soon to be unlocked value of the non-cellular interests. By the end of the year, the

and Vodafone have spelled out the arithmetic for some time. John Clark, at the Davis Institute of Research, calculates, on a going concern basis, that the RT holding alone is worth around 238p per Racal Electronics share, with its Chubb security operation adding a further 25p. The rest of the traditional businesses, he says, might be worth a further 22p per share making a grand total of 285p. This compares with a market price of 224p. Adjusting for a likely tidy-up of the electronics business, Mr Clark believes Chubb and the rest of the non-cellular interests are worth £124 million or 34p per share. Before Sir Ernest's announcement, it seems likely the group's £375 million borrow-

Smith returns to basics

AS Britain's largest newspaper retailer, WH Smith knows how to present a good story. So the company ensured an enthusiastic welcome for its £148 million rights issue by telling the City it was selling the businesses that worried investors most.

Smith always looked uncomfortable with its television and travel interests. Both are steady loss-makers and seemed to hold few prospects for an early turnaround. Their sale, for marginally less than net assets, will allow the company to concentrate on its high street retailing businesses.

The rights and the disposals will virtually wipe out the company's debts. All that will remain of the present estimated borrowings of £250 million is Smith's convertible Euro-bond. This will allow it to begin the £300 million capital spending programme planned for the next three years. Smith wants to add another 100 stores to its new video retailing chain, and expand its record chains in Britain and America. The spending will also include a series of freehold property acquisitions in the depressed retail market.

Smith's £88.5 million profit forecast for the year to end June was in line with City estimates, once the loss-makers have been removed but the

promise of an 8.5p final dividend on the A shares, up 13 per cent, pleased investors.

With the additional funds, the company should be able to reach £120 million next year, putting the rights shares, at 300p compared to 382p in the market, on a price/earnings ratio of 10. Worth taking.

Courtaulds

COURTAULDS fans hoped that the group would pull out all the stops to do well in its first year after the demerger of textiles. That is indeed what has happened. Taxable profits of £186.3 million, up from a pro forma £168.1 million, and earnings of 36.5p, against 32p, exceeded expectations.

The dividend is up from 11.1p to 12p, with a final of 8.6p. In the absence of detailed comments on current trading and a breakdown of provisions of £68.7 million against further restructuring, the worry is that Courtaulds has set a pace that it cannot sustain.

Times are tough in most operating sectors. Coatings increased profits from £53 million to £56 million on the back of high levels, which may have

peaked, of shipping construction in the Far East. Performance materials rose from £13 million to £15 million but remains heavily dependent on defence expenditure, which declined in the second half and will not recover in a hurry.

Chemicals rose £2 million to £15 million and continues to deliver good margins, but surplus capacity with increases in raw material prices, will constrain growth in fibres and film, which increased profits from £47 million to £59 million.

Gearing of 50 per cent reduces scope for acquisitions without disposals and the level of provisions suggests such moves are already under way. Given the uncertainty a prospective price/earnings of 10.5, with the shares at 384p, is demanding.

Ranks Hovis McDougall

RANKS Hovis McDougall must have satisfied millions in the six months to March 2, going by its record crumpet, muffin and pancake sales. But yesterday RHM gave

the market indigestion by reporting flat pre-tax profits of £76.5 million (£76.9 million), a blunt warning about likely second-half difficulties, and an unchanged interim dividend of 3.82p a share.

The shares, which have underperformed the market in the past year, fell 14p to 287p. A European acquisition is still awaited which, given RHM's increased financial muscle, would not prove difficult, and as asking prices in Europe within RHM's core fields are now less demanding, a deal may not be far off.

Until cash is spent, RHM will continue to generate net interest. This was a useful £3.9 million at half-time, compared with a £19.9 million payment previously, and a £29.6 million charge in the full year to September. The improved strength of the balance sheet made the unchanged dividend such a disappointment, but at year-end perhaps that will be repaired.

Adjusting last year's profits for a £17 million exceptional restructuring charge and £4.9 million of property profits, and the outcome this year might be £150 million pre-tax against £145.3 million. The shares trade on 10.6 times earnings, but the market will need to overcome its indigestion before giving them a run.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Poaching at leisure

THE demand for leisure analysts in the Square Mile has, it seems, never been greater. Carr Kitch & Aitken is, therefore, only too pleased to have poached Jeffrey Harwood from UBS Phillips & Drew - a larger rival, after all - to lead efforts to rebuild its leisure team. Harwood, aged 30, spent nine years with UBS, and is "out of the market" before taking up his new position in July. His departure, along with that of Geraldine Wright, European leisure analyst, has left UBS scouting the market for new talent. Carr, which has been short of staff on the leisure front since Bruce Jones and Roy Owens defected to Smith New Court last year, plans to make the sector one of its

cornerstones. Michael Savage, who has been helping to run the desk, says more appointments will follow.

Pain in the pocket
FIRMS that suffer from production losses caused by



claims of backache, have begun to install "lie detectors". Staff who use back pain as an excuse to inflate insurance claims or win time off work find it hard to fool the machines, which measure speed, strength and flexibility of muscle movement. Back trouble costs British firms about £4.5 billion a year in lost working hours.

Getting it write

AN EXAMPLE of how not to market a product: City journalists have been enraged by a mailshot that promises to improve their writing skills. The mailshot urges: "Master business writing skills that make people want to read what you've written," and promises to show how to "hook" readers and close like a professional. An embarrassed spokesman for Semi-

narCentre, a division of IIR, the business conference group, says: "This is business writing, not writing about business." Past clients, including UBS Phillips & Drew, County NatWest and even the Bank of England, hope, perhaps, for readers of the Quarterly Review.

Fund bears up

DAVID Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's of London, is due at Guildhall Yard at noon today to present a cheque to the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal on its annual City flag day. Yesterday, City types were surprised to see a performing bear - alias Richard Duncan, a former director of the Baltic Exchange, who had dressed as a bear to help the appeal.

JON ASHWORTH



"I make the sale, Griffin makes it pay"



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Treuhand says UK must act quickly on investments

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treuhand, the German trustee and privatisation agency, has warned British companies that they are in danger of "missing the boat" if they do not take up investment opportunities within the next few months.

The greatest urgency is in the construction sector, which will be the first to benefit from the DM101 billion federal government investment programme aimed at rebuilding roads, waterways, and houses.

Detlev von der Burg, a Treuhand director, and Barry Hylton Davies, an executive of the agency, told *The Times* during a visit to London that foreign interest in eastern Germany had picked up.

Herr von der Burg, who is also a director of Allianz, the German insurance group, said that while only 5 per cent of all privatisations involved for-

eign companies at the moment, this was expected to increase to 30 per cent within the next three years. Mr Hylton Davies, formerly an executive of Mowlem, the British construction group, who has been seconded to the Treuhand for a year, said: "If would-be investors don't act in the next few months they will indeed have missed the boat. It is an unfortunate time because of the recession. But the opportunities are there. Many British companies take the view that when they are through the slump, they will need to consolidate their cash position. That is a problem we have at the moment."

He added that there was much unjustified confusion over the issue of property rights, which last year presented one of the main hurdles for foreign investors. But these problems were being tackled by legislation, which is likely to come into force in the next few months.

Herr von der Burg said the Treuhand would continue to close companies that had no prospect of being rescued, although he declined to speculate on the number of closures likely.

"We continue to sit on the fence, but the main principle, the sole prerogative of the free market, remains. We would never keep a company alive solely to preserve jobs. We do not accept the principle of a right to employment," he said.

Herr von der Burg added, however, that companies would be kept alive if there was even an outside chance of a takeover.

He cited the example of a company from Bologna, Italy, which bought an eastern German manufacturer of dentists' equipment recently. The Treuhand had almost written off the company.



Cost-cutting and disposal: Sir Ian MacGregor's team are turning HunterPrint round

HunterPrint loss cut to £4.7m

By MARTIN BARROW

HUNTERPRINT, the printing company rescued last year by a new management team led by Sir Ian MacGregor, reduced first half losses from £6.62 million before tax to £4.68 million.

In the six months to the end of March, losses per share fell from 33.85p to 3.89p, reflecting the impact of a deeply discounted rights issue of 150 million new shares, that raised £13.6 million and underpinned the rescue package. The results include four

months' trading under the new management team and strengthened financial structure. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Tony Caplin, the managing director, said that a programme of cost cutting and rationalisation had been carried out within the magazine and catalogue division.

The relocation of the special products division had been completed within budget, releasing £368,000 of the exceptional provisions set

aside last year. After the disposal of non-core businesses, sales fell from £36.17 million to £23.21 million but operating losses were reduced from £4.16 million to £3.41 million.

Despite the cash injection, gearing was still about 50 per cent, excluding lease financing and interest charges were only marginally reduced from £1.86 million to £1.64 million. HunterPrint shares were unchanged at 20p, compared with a rights issue price of 10p.

EC agrees Alcatel Fiat link

THE European Commission will finally approve the merger between the battery division of Fiat and Alcatel Alsthom, the French industrial company, after Fiat agreed to reduce its stake in Compagnie Française d'Electrochimie from 75 per cent, as originally agreed, to 10 per cent.

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, welcomed the decision.

The alliance between Fiat's Magneti-Marelli and Alcatel's battery unit will be approved next week. The deal forms part of a wider alliance between the two companies.

Dalgety to sell US business

Dalgety, the food business that owns brands such as Spillers, Homepride and Golden Wonder, is selling Dalgety Produce, its American fresh produce business, to an investment group including the senior management of the company as part of its continuing restructuring.

The price is \$28.7 million. \$17.6 million to be paid immediately in cash and the balance in equal instalments in 1994 and 1996. The deal is effective from February 1.

Collex disposal

Mayne Nickless, the Australian transport and security group, has agreed to sell Collex, its waste management business, to Fretform, a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale d'Entreprises Automobiles, of France, which is owned by Compagnie Générale des Eaux.

Wilton has 47%

Wilton, the property group, has announced acceptance for its recommended offer for Cowan de Groot, the toy business, totalling 17.4 per cent of the shares, giving it ownership of or acceptances from 47.2 per cent of its target.

Poor response

The Wiltshire Brewery has announced that just 35 per cent of the shares on offer in its £1.44 million rights issue announced last month were taken up by its shareholders.

BA overtakes Air France in race for Sabena link

Brussels SABENA, Belgium's national airline, is in advanced partnership negotiations with both British Airways and Air France, but the talks with BA are the most advanced, according to Pierre Godfroid, the Sabena chairman.

"We are in well-advanced negotiations with both British Airways, which is the most advanced, and Air France," M Godfroid said.

He said the airline had an end-of-July deadline to conclude a provisional agreement with a partner, which he expected would buy at least 25 per cent of Sabena's shares, representing about BFR6 billion (£98 million) worth of investment.

Joint plans between BA, Sabena and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to form Sabena World Airways, a new airline which would have been based at Brussels airport, were halted last year. The partnership was dissolved on December 31 after EC criticism that the plan was anti-competitive. However, in February BA said it was still discussing

possible co-operation with Sabena. Yesterday the British airline confirmed that talks are continuing, but it would not be drawn on the details. Air France's advantages, said M Godfroid, included its structure, which comprised both Air France's international network and Air Inter's domestic routes.

The Sabena chairman said he wanted the partner to give intercontinental flight support, access to its business systems including reservations and revenue accounting, co-operation on purchases, "from aircraft to fresh salmon" and on aircraft maintenance.

He added that he was looking for a final partnership agreement by the end of September, a deadline which he believed was realistic.

The chairman said that Sabena, in which the Belgian state is the majority owner, had a lower than expected first-quarter loss as a consequence of the Gulf war, amounting to BFR2.2 billion, instead of a forecast BFR3 billion. (Reuters)

High costs at Sony limit profit growth

Tokyo THIN margins from tough price competition and higher than expected labour and distribution costs put pressure on operating profits at Sony, the electronics giant.

Sony rose only 0.8 per cent in the year to end March to 297.45 billion yen (£1.25 billion) although pre-tax profit jumped 16.3 per cent to a record Y264.59 billion on sales up 25.6 per cent to Y3.62 trillion, also a record.

Hiroshi Kuriyama, analyst at CS First Boston (Japan), said he had expected group operating profit of slightly less than Y320 billion. "Thin margins from Sony's software division, and slowing growth in hardware sales... probably pressured its operating

profit," Mr Kuriyama said. A Sony official said the company's entertainment division is likely to contribute Y720 billion in sales to the group in 1991-2 and Y46.5 billion in operating profit.

Last year, entertainment division sales totalled Y731.5 billion and operating profit was Y46.5 billion. "That division had minus impact on our group net profit in 1990-91," the official added.

Sony bought Columbia Pictures Entertainment, the American film-maker, for \$3.4 billion in September 1989. "It will take another two or three years before Columbia has a positive impact on Sony's group net profit," an analyst at a Japanese research firm said. (Reuters)



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Name

Address

Postcode

Present Car

1.6 16V
1.8 16V
2.0 16V
2000 turbo



£12,256

100

The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 91.9 (day's range 91.9-92.1).

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 91.9 (day's range 91.9-92.21).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.7259-1.7350	1.7255-1.7285	0.87-0.89	0.40-0.28
Montr	1.8671-1.7944	1.8671-1.8956	0.47-0.44	0.50-0.28
London	0.8928-0.9254	0.8928-0.9254	0.50-0.50	0.50-0.50
Brussels	0.107-0.127	0.106-0.127	17-14p	43-37p
Copenhagen	11.8472-11.3803	11.8394-11.3889	25-17p	61-54p
Frankfurt	1.1104-1.1174	1.1104-1.1174	81-51p	81-51p
Paris	0.2693-0.2772	0.2693-0.2750	5-4p	15-14p
Lisbon	325.30-325.82	325.57-325.57	80-2p	14-08p
Madrid	194.10-194.60	193.24-193.24	16-12p	16-12p
Amster	200.81-201.12	200.33-200.08	30-2p	30-2p
Oslo	11.6461-11.6228	11.5857-11.5791	25-17p	61-54p
Norve	10.0710-10.1080	10.0709-10.1010	25-17p	61-54p
Stockh	10.0339-10.0689	10.0499-10.0732	5-4p	15-14p
Tokyo	220.00-220.00	220.00-220.00	25-17p	61-54p
Zurich	21.92-21.92	21.92-21.92	45-37p	15-10p
Zurich	2.8190-2.8294	2.8192-2.8224	7-5p	21-2p

Source: Reuters Premium = + Discount = -

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 12 Finance New 12%				
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 12% Low 11 Week Bank 12%				
Treasury Bills (Maturity: 2 1/2 11%; 3 1/2 11%; 6 1/2 11%; 1 1/2 10%; 10% 10%)				

Prime Bank Bills (Day)	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	12 1/2%
Starling Money Rate	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%
Currency swap 12% (day)	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%
Local Authority Deposit	11%	n/a	11%	11%	n/a
Starling Cons	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%
Dollar Cons	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%
Banking Society Cons	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	4 mth	Call
Dollar	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%
Swiss Franc	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%
French Franc	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%
Swiss Franc	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%	5%-5%
Yen	7%-7%	7%-7%	7%-7%	7%-7%	7%-7%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

(Bullion & Co)

Bullion: Open 3357.50-357.50 Close 3358.75-357.50 High 3357.50-357.50				
Low 3356.50-357.50 Bid: 3358.50-357.50 Offer: 3358.50-357.50				
Settlement: 3358.50-357.50 (Settlement: 3358.50-357.50 Bid: 3358.50-357.50)				
Settlement: 3358.50-357.50 (Settlement: 3358.50-357.50 Bid: 3358.50-357.50)				

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	17157.5-17075.1	17157.5-17075.1
Australia dollar	2.2404-2.2447	2.2404-2.2447
Belgian franc	0.64-0.64	0.64-0.64
Brazil cruzeiro	4.44-4.47	4.44-4.47
Cypriot pound	0.1008-0.1018	0.1008-0.1018
East German mark	0.0075-0.0075	0.0075-0.0075
Green dracma	350.42-350.42	350.42-350.42
Hong Kong dollar	18.4378-18.4381	18.4378-18.4381
Indian rupee	0.55-0.57	0.55-0.57
Kuwait dirh	n/a	n/a
Malaysian ringgit	4.7701-4.7747	4.7701-4.7747
Mexican peso	0.15-0.15	0.15-0.15
New Zealand dollar	0.9400-0.9400	0.9400-0.9400
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.0255-0.0255	0.0255-0.0255
Sri Lanka rupee	0.0099-0.0099	0.0099-0.0099
S African rand	0.8178-0.8178	0.8178-0.8178
S African rand (cont)	0.8178-0.8178	0.8178-0.8178
South African rand	0.8178-0.8178	0.8178-0.8178
Swedish krona	0.1371-0.1371	0.1371-0.1371
Seychelles rupee	7.17-7.17	7.17-7.17
Spain peseta	16.66-16.66	16.66-16.66
Taiwan dollar	0.1200-0.1211	0.1200-

COMMODITIES

1991				Price				Vol			
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check it against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Index
1	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
2	Holmes & Co	Electronics	
3	Unilever	Foodstuffs	
4	Food Int	Foodstuffs	
5	James Watson	Electronics	
6	Barclays Bank	Banking	
7	James Watson	Electronics	
8	Johnson & Johnson	Pharmaceuticals	
9	British Steel	Metals	
10	Charles & Co	Textiles	
11	Medeva	Pharmaceuticals	
12	Grand Met	Foodstuffs	
13	Unilever	Foodstuffs	
14	Holmes & Co	Electronics	
15	BT	Telecommunications	
16	Whitbread	Foodstuffs	
17	British Steel	Metals	
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Please take into account any minus signs.

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr A Newton, of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, and Mr Ken Wynn, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

Source: High Low Company

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
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LONDON: 5th Floor, Woodchester House, 2 Selsdon Way, London E14 9GL. Tel: 071-537 3733. Attn: Katherine Forsyth.

NEWCASTLE: Suites 4-7, 41-43 Westmorland Road,

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Do you feel ready for a career move but have been holding back because of either the current economic climate or uncertainty of the opportunities available to you? Then we can definitely help. As a long established consultancy we have carefully built up an extensive information bank on most major practices throughout the country and develop excellent working relationships with the relevant contacts. As a result we can only hold details of many openings at all levels and will be happy to discuss any suitable opening with you.

Please note: If you are interested in any particular vacancy or simply looking for a confidential career/salary discussion, please contact Bette Pullen on 071-404 3155 (days) or 091 625 1715 (Eves) or send a full C.V. to Alderwick Peachell and Partners, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA.

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£17,000 - £27,000

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Our benefits include up to 30 days' annual leave, company pension scheme, personal accident benefit, and a competitive salary based on ability and experience.

If you are interested in discussing the opportunities please contact Martin Smith or David Hipple on (0480) 443000.

For an application form please contact Jane Gladhill on (0480) 443000 ext 3522 between 9 am and 5 pm quoting reference 005H. Completed application forms should be returned to Chris Linnell, Personnel Manager, Anglian Water plc, Anglian House, Ambury Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6NZ and arrive no later than 14th June 1991.

Anglian Water

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Successful applicants could either join our team of underwriters, in dealing with a wide variety of life and disability risks from around the world, or our International Marketing team, in supporting our client companies and our travellers. Overseas travel is a possibility with training and experience. Previous life assurance experience and/or progress in the C.I.I. examinations would be an advantage.

In addition to an attractive salary, this position offers excellent fringe benefits including contractual bonus, flex-time, subsidised restaurant, season ticket loans, sports and social facilities, plus non-contributory pension and mortgage subsidy after a qualifying period.

Please send full career details, including present salary package to: Mrs. A. J. Thomas, The Mercantile and General Reinsurance Company plc, Moorfields House, Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL.

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Locations are throughout the UK and applications are open to all candidates. Applications from women with relevant Branch or Sales Management experience or from the more mature Branch Manager will be welcomed.

This advertisement is necessitated by the fact that a number of vacancies have coincidentally arisen. Some are specific in regard to location and others take note of the fact that talented people are where they are so the sensible course of action is to create sales operations convenient to them. The appeal for women recognises the qualities and high performance standards that they bring to our business.

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Applicants should be graduates with an accounting qualification and preferably operating company experience within our industry.

Intelligent, committed candidates with excellent interpersonal skills and a strong team spirit should send a full CV to: Mr J. Brown, Turnells Limited, AS - 11 New Covent Garden, Fruit & Vegetable Market, LONDON SW9 6EF

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Date of appointment: 1st September, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Further particulars and application forms available from: The Personnel Office, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, PO Box 220, The Park Campus, Cheltenham GL50 2QF. Tel: (0242) 353819.

Closing date: 17th June 1991.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Promotion creates these two key opportunities where you will gain high exposure to corporate finance working initially in one of two areas:

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- developing the group's dividend policy
- carrying out cost of capital analysis
- undertaking fundamental research in accounting policy.

Reference: GFV11111X028T.

Financial reporting

- monitoring financial performance of key business areas
- preparing monthly financial reports.

Reference: GFV00077X028T.

A part or fully-qualified accountant, you should have planning, analysis or management accounting experience and a good knowledge of financial economics. If you're part qualified we will expect you to progress rapidly to qualification.

With first-class analytical skills and a creative approach, you should be a good communicator, as you will be preparing papers for the Board and briefing senior managers.

Salaries, in the range £29,900 to £28,700 including inner London weighting, are supported by an excellent range of benefits including 30 days' holiday, profit sharing and shareave schemes, pension and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please write with full cv, quoting the appropriate reference, to Ruth Walker, Recruitment Administration, British Gas plc, Heron House, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT. Closing date for receipt of applications 28 May 1991.

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هكذا من الأصل

A century ago, a US doctor found a cancer cure. Today, Nigel Hawkes reports, this discovery is being used to fight arthritis and malaria

Of mice, men, baboons and bugs

William Coley, a New York physician, made a curious observation in the 1890s. He found that cancer patients who caught common infections often showed a remarkable improvement and the growth of their tumours went into reverse. The message seemed to be: catch a cold and cure your cancer.

Dr Coley deliberately infected cancer patients with various bugs and produced remarkable cures. His work was relegated to the footnotes of medical history, but in 1975 the substance now thought to be responsible for the effects he observed, a protein produced by white blood cells fighting the infection, was rediscovered and isolated. Excitement followed when researchers found it could destroy tumours in mice, and it was given the name tumour necrosis factor, or TNF.

The testing of TNF against human cancers, however, has so far been disappointing. Genentech, the San Francisco company that in 1984 first cloned the gene responsible for making TNF, spent \$20 million developing the substance as an anti-cancer agent before giving up.

Some cancer work continues, including pioneering experiments at the US National Cancer Institute, where Steven Rosenberg has transplanted the gene into cancer patients in the hope of boosting their cancer-killing abilities. The greatest interest, however, is in TNF's role in other conditions, including septic shock, arthritis, transplant organ rejection, cerebral malaria and AIDS.

Celtech, the biotechnology



Seeing the light: Dr Mark Bodmer, of Celtech, studies tissue culture cells being used to create new anti-TNF antibodies

company, is now developing an antibody that it believes will be up to 100 times more effective in removing TNF from the blood of patients suffering from septic shock. This could save thousands of lives. Septic shock is the result of blood poisoning, when toxins in the bloodstream activate the white blood cells, initiating a process in which TNF is released. The TNF

helps to cause the rapid failure of vital organs, and about half the affected patients die. Patients with severe blood poisoning and close to death have been found to have an increased TNF level.

Striking experiments by a team at Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation led by Dr Lerner Hinshaw, published in *Circulatory Shock* last year, showed that

suppressing TNF produced remarkable recoveries in baboons suffering from septic shock. Dr Hinshaw injected a dozen baboons with a lethal dose of the bacterium *E. coli*. Six were then treated with anti-TNF antibody. The untreated animals survived for less than 24 hours, but those that received the antibody made a complete recovery.

Such findings have created great interest in drugs that may suppress TNF. Celtech started by producing mouse anti-TNF antibodies, which have been tested in human patients to measure their toxicity. Dr Mark Bodmer, of Celtech, says there was concern at first that the antibodies would be toxic in humans, but this fear has proved groundless. However, the patients'

immune systems recognised the mouse antibodies and rejected them. This meant they did not remain in the system long enough to be fully effective.

The second generation antibody now under development is an attempt to get around this problem by "humanising" the mouse antibodies, using a technique developed by Dr Greg Winter at the Medical Research Council's molecular biology laboratory in Cambridge. Protein and genetic engineering is used to increase the human element in the antibodies, which should be better tolerated by the body.

Dr Bodmer says there is "a reasonable chance" that the technique will work and the new antibody will not be rejected. That will mean smaller doses can be used and the antibody will remain in the bloodstream long enough to mop up TNF.

In laboratory experiments it has proved 100 times as effective as the earlier antibodies in removing TNF from the blood. The new antibody is expected to go into clinical trials next year, after animal tests are completed.

If the antibody works, it may have applications in other circumstances where TNF is expressed. One is arthritis, as TNF has been found in rheumatoid cells. A second is cerebral malaria, where anti-TNF antibodies are already in clinical trials. Yet another is transplantation, where elevated TNF levels have been measured just before rejection begins.

So Dr Coley's strange observations may, 100 years later, prove to have been as important as he believed them to be.

Concorde's big sister

AN AIRCRAFT faster and cheaper than Concorde and carrying three times as many passengers could be flying in 15 years, Bill Clapper, of America's General Electric Aircraft Engines, told the International Aerospace Congress in Melbourne last week. The aircraft would fly at up to 2,210mph and have a 6,000-mile range.

Powerful draw

THE Cookson Group, an international industrial materials company, has produced a magnetic material three times more powerful than existing ferrite magnets, which should make possible electric motors a fraction of their present size. Richard Ostr, Cookson's managing director, says the magnets, made of bonded rare earth elements, are so powerful that one the size of a jam jar can lift a one-ton car.

Search narrows

TWO teams of scientists believe they have narrowed the search for the gene that causes some cases of the most common type of motor neuron disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The researchers, at Duke University, North Carolina, and Massachusetts general hospital, think the gene is in a small region of chromosome 21. The disease destroys brain and spinal cord nerve cells, often causing death within five years.

Space diamonds

RESEARCHERS at Tokai University in Japan have developed transistors using diamonds that can withstand temperatures up to 1,000°C. The team leader, Mamoru Iida, says the transistors are easy and cheap to manufacture and their heat resistance will make them useful in space and inside nuclear reactors.

Solid discovery

A SCIENTIST has developed a fluid that can become solid instantly when an electrical field is applied. Professor Frank Filisko, of Michigan University, believes the fluid will be useful in computerised shock absorbers, brakes, steering and transmission systems and valves.

A Beethoven symphony on a biscuit

Just when you thought you had every electronic gadget you would ever need, the Sony Corporation has invented a new way of listening to music (*Nigel Hawkes writes*). To the piles of cassettes, LPs, CDs and digital audio tapes Sony proposes adding the Mini Disc, an ultra-compact recording system combining the resilience of the personal stereo with the sound quality of the CD.

The new system is incompatible with everything that has gone before. The Mini Disc, due to reach the market in late 1992, will make ordinary audio cassettes out of date overnight.

enough to be worn pinned to a T-shirt like a brooch, uses discs 2.5in in diameter, about the size of a biscuit, which will come in protective cartridges. The discs use a combination of magnetic and optical methods for recording sound and should play back with quality close to that given by CDs. Sony uses data compression techniques, which squeeze the signal down by a factor of five, allowing 74 minutes of sound to be recorded on every disc.

The Mini Disc will be able to record as well as play. Because the recording system is digital, a perfect copy can be made of a CD, which can then be played in the car

or on a Mini Disc personal stereo system. But to satisfy international copyright agreements, the Mini Disc will contain circuitry making copying the copy impossible, although hi-fi buffs are certain to find a way around that obstacle.

To enable the Mini Disc to be played even while the listener is jogging, the system incorporates a memory device that stores about three seconds of music at a time. If the player is jolted and the playback head shifts, the music goes on playing from the memory while the head automatically returns to the right position.

Sony believes the Mini Disc will gradually replace the cassette deck

and the personal stereo, leaving the CD and digital audio tape unchallenged as the best in recorded sound.

Spokesmen talk enthusiastically of an immense market, in cars, home players and personal audio systems. They should know since introducing its Walkman personal stereo in 1979, Sony has sold 75 million of them.

Blank discs are expected to cost about £5 and pre-recorded discs should be about the same as CDs. No price has yet been set for the player itself, although £300 has been mentioned by Japanese sources. In due course, no doubt, every home will have one.



Little wonder: the palm-size Mini Disc recorder and disc

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- * Commitment to equality of opportunity.
- * A positive attitude towards change and problem solving.

Please telephone 071-926 3850 for an application form and information pack containing full details of salary, post requirements and benefits.

Alternatively, write to The Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 16 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL.

Closing date: 31st May 1991.

Interviews will be held within two weeks of the closing date.

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.

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Applicants should possess a good first degree and ideally a higher qualification in either Business Administration or Economics. Experience of banking regulatory matters of similar risk management experience in inter-bank lending as well as country risk assessment skills are essential. Applicants must also possess the commercial awareness, credibility and personal skills to discuss complex issues at a senior level. Language skills in addition to English would be useful.

The position offers a highly visible role with attractive career growth. The benefits include car, mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension scheme and private health care. Please write with full details of career and current salary to Jenny Lever, Human Resources Executive, Visa International, P.O. Box 253, London W8 5TE.

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THE TIMES

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Within the Professional Conduct Department a team of Lawyers and Chartered Accountants are engaged in the work of upholding professional standards and the investigation of complaints. A Chartered Accountant is needed to join the team as Under Secretary, Investigations.

The preferred candidate will possess a sound analytical mind coupled with the determination to get to the bottom of problems. He/she will enjoy offering robust advice to members and complainants and be able to present a case clearly, in writing and orally, to Committees.

Based in Milton Keynes, the person appointed will occasionally attend meetings at our Moorgate Place headquarters and interview members and complainants at their place of work.

A person younger than 35 is unlikely to possess the necessary skills and experience. Recent experience of practice would be an advantage.

A salary in the region of £28,000 per annum, pension scheme, private medical insurance, a relocation package and other benefits are all available for this excellent opportunity to further expand your skills and experience.

Anyone interested in this challenging opportunity should write, enclosing C.V. stating your current salary.

Mrs J Burdock, Personnel Officer, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, Gloucester House, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL Tel: 0908 668833.

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Continued on next page

Law Report May 23 1991 Chancery Division

Insider's purported transfer of his shares before sale adjudged a sham

Chase Manhattan Equities Ltd v Goodman and Others
Before Mr Justice Knox
[Judgment July 27, 1990]

A gift of shares by a company director who had unpublished price-sensitive information relating to shares in the company, prior to their sale on the stock exchange, was held to be a sham, and the agreement for sale of the shares was held to be unenforceable.

The director, who gave the instructions for sale, acted in contravention of section 1 of the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985. Although section 8(3) of that Act provided that no transaction was to be void or voidable by reason only of the fact that it was entered into in contravention of the Act, that section was intended to protect the working of the stock exchange, and the court would not enforce the sale because to do so would be an affront to the public conscience. In that the court would be appearing to assist the director in his illegal conduct.

Mr Justice Knox so held in the Chancery Division in a judgment ordered to be published before the completion of criminal proceedings against

the director, Mr Ivor Goodman. Mr Michael Tegenhofer, QC and Mr David Parsons for the plaintiff, Mr Paul Collins for the first defendant, Mr Goodman; Mr William Blackburn, QC and Mr Raphael Cohen for the second defendant, Mrs Linda Lesley Fitzgerald; Mr Michael Lesley Fitzgerald, Mr Michael Lesley for the third, fourth and fifth defendants, Natwest Nominees Ltd, Natwest Westminster Bank plc, and Natwest Stockbrokers Ltd.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said the action and counterclaim concerned the validity and enforceability of a sale agreement made on the Stock Exchange on Monday October 5, 1987 between the plaintiff, Chase Manhattan Equities Ltd, acting as market maker, and Natwest Stockbrokers Ltd, the defendant, as broker. Whereby Chase Equities agreed to buy some 692,209 ordinary shares in Unigroup plc (the company) at £1.67 per share, the shares being registered in the name of Natwest Nominees Ltd, the third defendant, and being subject to a charge in favour of the National Westminster Bank plc, the fourth defendant.

Apart from a small parcel of 1,309 shares, there was an issue

as to their beneficial ownership, since the remaining 690,900 shares had purportedly been given by Mr Goodman to Mrs Fitzgerald by a deed of gift dated October 1, 1987. Mr Goodman was living with Mrs Fitzgerald, although not married to her, both of them being still married to third parties.

After a detailed examination of the facts his Lordship concluded that by the date of the deed, Mr Goodman who was then chairman of the company, had come into possession of unpublished price-sensitive information about the company's affairs, which, if substantiated, would have turned the balance sheet completely upside down, showing losses of over £1 million, and that the company owed £1.6 million, and that the figures for past and future income would need significant adjustment.

His Lordship also found that Mr Goodman's relationship with other directors had deteriorated to a serious extent and that his personal circumstances were difficult in that he had financial responsibilities to his first and second wives and his teenage daughters.

He was in a depressed state and it was in those circum-

stances that the deed of gift was executed, being signed both by Mr Goodman and Mrs Fitzgerald and witnessed.

Instructions for sale were given by Mr Goodman, with Mrs Fitzgerald's agreement, on Friday October 2, but the sale was delayed until the Monday because it was felt that late on a Friday was not the time to sell such a large parcel of shares, and because the broker acting for Chase Equities was anxious to find out, if possible, where the shares were coming from. Over the weekend Mrs Fitzgerald prevailed upon Mr Goodman to resign.

The sale was agreed because it seemed unlikely that the shares came from a director, the bargain between Chase Equities as market maker and Chase Securities as broker was for 670,000 shares at £1.68, leaving Chase Equities with 22,209 shares plus a 1p per share commission.

The shares were sold on to other purchasers. Unsuccessful attempts were made to rescind.

On October 7, the board of the company, which no longer included Mr Goodman, applied for a suspension in dealings, which was granted next day.

The writ was issued on October 16, two days before deals

made on October 5 would normally have been settled.

When finally published, on February 22, 1988, the company's results showed a loss before tax of £1,175,000, and after the suspension was lifted a week later, the shares were traded at between 50 and 55p a share.

The first issue was whether the deed of gift was a sham; other issues depended on the answer.

His Lordship said it could only be a sham if it could be shown either that the parties intended it to have no effect at all, or because Mrs Fitzgerald was to hold the shares on trust.

It would not suffice to show that it was entered into in circumstances entitling Mr Goodman to have it set aside for undue influence, or, *a fortiori*, by showing that his trustee in bankruptcy would have been entitled to have it set aside as a transaction at an undervalue or as one to defraud creditors.

More importantly of motive was no ground for treating a transaction as a sham. It was not necessary for the parties to intend any particular transaction, nor need their motives be the same.

His Lordship concluded that the deed was indeed a sham,

since ostensibly it was an intrinsically extraordinary one for Mr Goodman to have entered into; he was parting outright with his only substantial asset at a time when he had considerable actual and prospective liabilities both in business and in his family affairs.

He might well have thought that he could engineer a sale by Mrs Fitzgerald in such a way as to avoid the consequences that he had every reason to know were likely to follow if he sold the shares himself openly.

His Lordship accepted that Mrs Fitzgerald was genuinely concerned for Mr Goodman, that she agreed to the gift with a view to looking after and protecting him, and that she had no knowledge of the price-sensitive information.

Mr Goodman chose not to give evidence, so the court had to rely on inferences. His Lordship inferred that Mr Goodman knew well of the restraints against selling his shares and the fact that Mrs Fitzgerald wanted him to sever links with the company. She was not trying to benefit herself, and exercised no undue influence.

The model code, derived from the Financial Services Act 1986, provided that a director

should not deal in any securities of the company at any time when he was in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information, and that he should not deal in them without first notifying the chairman or the board of the company.

But no obligation was imposed on a director directly towards any other person. The chain of legal obligation between a director and a market maker was too long and tenuous to justify finding any duty owed to the latter by the former, and the plaintiff's case based on misrepresentation by silence therefore failed.

Mr Goodman had clearly committed a breach of the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985, even if the deed had been held to be effectual and not a sham. It followed that he was guilty of an offence under section 1 of the Act.

The question that remained was what, if any, effect that element of illegality had upon the sale agreement.

The agreement itself was entirely lawful, but it was brought into being as a direct result of an illegal act by Mr Goodman, and if the law were to lend assistance to its completion Mr Goodman

would benefit as a direct result of his illegal act.

It would be an affront to the public conscience to grant him the relief sought by his counterclaim.

Reliance was placed by the defendants on section 8(3) of the 1985 Act, which provided that "no transaction is void or voidable by reason only that it was entered into in contravention of section 1, 2, 4 or 5".

But the object of the section was to protect the working of the stock exchange, and prevent completed transactions from being unwound. In his Lordship's view the sale agreement was unenforceable.

Since the body with the legal title to the shares involved was before the court, and submitted to the court's directions, his Lordship would make the declaration sought by the plaintiff, but subject to altering the expression relating to the agreement from "unlawful contrary to" to "unenforceable because it was tainted in its creation by an infringement of the 1985 Act".

No question of damages arose and the counterclaim would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Michael Freeman & Co; Levi & Co; Leeds; Wilde Sapte.

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Ramprakash and Lawrence may be the players left out for the first of the Texaco Trophy matches

One-day form favours England

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE despair and recriminations of a lost winter are still uncomfortably fresh in the memory but England, fortified by the return of an old hero and the arrival of a new one can paradoxically begin a daunting summer of international cricket at Edgbaston today believing that their first target, at least, is not beyond them.

A strict reading of recent form, indeed, might suggest that this three-match Texaco Trophy series ought to go to England as marginally the better of two poor one-day teams.

Even a few years ago, this last statement would have been absurd. West Indies were still proudly guarding their reputation as kings of the limited-overs game while England had some impressive credentials of their own. Not any more. In the past 18 months England have played 22 one-day internationals and lost 18 of them; this past winter, West Indies played eight and lost seven. If there was a seasonal league table, this would be a relegation issue.

This, however, will not matter a scrap to the 70,000-plus spectators who have managed to buy, beg or borrow tickets for the games which were due to have had Graeme Hick's England debut as their main feature but now, to Hick's great relief, they have the less predictable comeback of the prodigal Botham.

Nor, in all probability, will such figures matter overmuch to Vivian Richards, under whose leadership West Indies have increasingly regarded their one-day programme as inconsequential, not least because in most countries, though not in England, balls of throat or head height, as well as those above, are called wide. By way of explaining recent results, Richards said dismissively yesterday: "It is fast-food cricket."

He is right, of course, but if the here-today-forgotten-tomorrow nature of limited-overs cricket will endure, no matter how long it is played, this week's series has captured

the imagination more than most and should logically produce a more even contest than the Test series to come.

The last time West Indies were in England, a mere three years ago, the one-day series was embarrassingly one-sided but, by way of a change to the usual script when these teams meet, it was West Indies who did not get a look-in. England, under Mike Gatting, won by six wickets, 47 runs and seven wickets.

Gatting's team also fared tolerably well in the drawn first Test but then came the Rotherhithe Court scandal, the dismissal of Gatting and the hamfisted juggling of three captains by Peter May's selection committee. By the time England had lost the last Test, almost as heavily as the previous three, the minor miracle of the Texaco Trophy had long been forgotten.

The final Test, however, was significant for being the first in which England were led by Graham Gooch. His has never been a smooth career and it has experienced a few highs and lows since, but he was back on the throne yesterday, casually chewing on an apple as he preached his solid realism.

There were no promises, no revelations, no emotion and no propaganda. Gooch does not indulge. He spoke, as he invariably does, of trying to win every game, of working hard and of recent performances being "not up to standard". But, thinking back to his own dark mood as the Australian tour hit the depths, he did throw out a challenge. "There are a lot of players with their reputations at stake. We need a new impetus and we have some younger, more athletic guys now so we should improve our fielding 100 per cent."

Gooch then spoke of the conviction his players must have. "If you don't believe you are going to win, you won't." Asked if Botham's effervescence would be a help here, he replied, commendably straightfaced: "Yes, if he makes the final XI."

There will be a few thousand people mighty disappointed if, by remote chance, Botham does not make it, though none more than the man himself. He practised diligently again yesterday and has the air of one intent on making this more than a fleeting reprise. "He is like the Pied Piper," marvelled his old friend Richards. "It is a good thing for cricket that he's back."

England will omit one specialist bowler, probably



Prodigal son: Botham at work in the nets before his return to the England team

Gooch defends new system

Lawrence, and either Fairbrother or Ramprakash, leaving Gooch as the spare bowler. West Indies' one doubt is a major one, with Desmond Haynes, the most prolific one-day player in the world, facing a late fitness test.

Johnson's date

Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, will compete in his first 100 metres race since the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 when he competes in Granada on Saturday.

GRAHAM Gooch was yesterday anxious to counter claims that the extra day allocated to the England team's preparations this summer had disrupted the county programme purely for the sake of a prolonged net practice (Alan Lee writes).

The England captain is aware that some county administrators feel the change was unnecessary. He said: "People have got the wrong idea. It was never the intention to spend 12 hours of each day in the nets."

The main idea is that the players should have two days break after their previous match. Rest is as important as anything within the programme we undertake and we are not looking to actively fill

every minute of the available days.

Although there have been two formal team meetings in the past 48 hours, Gooch has also used the time to talk individually with his players, something which was always rushed under the old system of reporting on the afternoon before each England match.

McNeill goes as Celtic seek new manager

By RODDY FORSYTH

BILLY McNeill was dismissed yesterday as manager of Celtic after his second spell in charge of the Parkhead team, a tenure which lasted four years. The caretaker manager is to be McNeill's assistant, Tommy Craig, who has asked to be considered for the managerial position. Jack McGinn, the Celtic chairman, said that the club would not rush headlong into making an appointment.

By his commanding, often inspirational presence, McNeill earned the long-standing nickname of Caesar, but it was his recent inability to conquer the Scottish domestic scene which guaranteed that his second managerial association with the club would come to a swift conclusion. As captain of the team under Jock Stein he became the first British player to hold the European Cup aloft in May 1967, and he succeeded Stein in 1978, after 19 years as a player, guiding Celtic to three titles in five years.

After a row about his pay he left to join Manchester City and then Aston Villa before returning to Celtic in May 1987 to replace David Hay.

Celtic were rewarded handsomely in the following season, their centenary year, when they achieved the Scottish league and cup double.

The next season the tide turned when they were battered 5-1 by Rangers at Ibrox.

Since then Celtic's single success against Rangers was a 1-0 victory in the Scottish Cup final of 1989, but the Ibrox team went on to win three championships in succession as well as a further two Skol Cups. It is this contrast in fortune which cost McNeill his job.

It has been clear since Christmas that, short of a substantial change in Celtic's fortunes, McNeill would not enjoy the full confidence of the board. In March, Celtic beat Rangers twice in the space of seven days, knocking them out of the Scottish Cup and hindering their progress in the championship.

This was to prove a mirage and the Celtic's own Scottish Cup defeat by Motherwell sealed McNeill's fate. McGinn said yesterday: "It has been under consideration for several weeks. The great difficulty is separating friendship and liking for someone from the hard reality that we have performed very moderately in two championships. I believe that Celtic must do a lot better than that."

"We have told the world there is no manager at Celtic Park and there might be 15 or 16 candidates, one of whom might be outstanding."

Kelly spares the Irish blushes

Rep of Ireland 1
Chile 1

FROM PETER BALL
IN DUBLIN

JACK Charlton's fiftieth game as manager of the Republic of Ireland will not go down as one of his most memorable matches. A goal by David Kelly nine minutes from time earned Ireland a draw against Chile, extending their undefeated run in Dublin to 25 matches.

Overall, there were few signs that the new five-man midfield strategy could end Ireland's increasingly fruitless search for goals while the quick breaks of the South American side, at times, threatened to catch Ireland's defence on their heels.

Initially, Ireland looked as if they could expose an uncharacteristic defence with some ease. In the opening minutes, Keane saw a header fly wide and then Kelly got in at the

near post only to glance his effort too fine.

But the warning signs grew and although Romero missed one chance after a quick break, it was no surprise when the dangerous Estay capitalised on another to put his side ahead.

Increasingly, it looked as if Charlton's first defeat in Dublin — since that by Wales five years ago in his first game in charge — was on the cards. But Kelly came to the rescue, meeting Sheridan's corner to leave Toledo helpless.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: G Peyton (Bournemouth), G Hughton (West Ham United), S Stanton (Liverpool), D O'Leary (Arsenal), M P. McGrath (Aston Villa), R Moran (Sheff Wed), A Townsend (Chelsea), R Keane (Nottingham Forest), R Houghton (Liverpool), M. McLoughlin (Sheff Wed), D Kelly (Leicester City), R. Sheridan (Ipswich), A. Casanova, A. Vane (Ipswich). CHILE: P Toledo (Universidad Catolica), A Romero (Universidad Catolica), R Fuentes (Colo-Colo), F. Guevara (Puebla), M. Miranda, Concepcion, L. Alvarez (Colo-Colo), J. Parraguez (Ipswich), R Rubio (St. Gallen), R. Gomez (Palencia), J. Vera (QPR), J. Contreras (Universidad Catolica), F. Estay (Liverpool), C. L. Guardia (Colo-Colo), A. Gonzalez (Union Espanola). Referee: D. Rodat (Switzerland).

Argentina an unknown entity

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA, the beaten World Cup finalists last summer, are to launch their claim for the England Challenge Cup tonight at Old Trafford.

Like their opponents, the Soviet Union, they are being re-formed by a new manager. Alfie Basile was appointed only four months ago. A colourful character who carries the soubriquet of Coco, he holds the odd controversial view. He is convinced, for instance, that the game would benefit if each side played with only ten men. He has brought even fewer established internationals to compete in the triangular tournament.

Cannigga, of Atlanta, and one of the few survivors from a year ago, was absent when the depleted squad arrived at their hotel in Manchester yesterday. So too was Martino, another of only four members of the original party attached to a foreign club.

In an effort to appease his own nation's supporters, Basile stated in January that he intended to build his team largely around home-based

players. He has invited Maradona, the former captain now in disgrace, to train with the newcomers and pass on his experience.

Because of his enforced retirement, Maradona can no longer carry his country, as he did during the World Cup finals of 1986 and 1990. Basile will be expected to find a suitable replacement from a collection with scarcely any experience apart from Ruggieri, the captain and central defender.

The Soviets already have a leading light, in Mikhail Ichenko, and so, apparently, do England in Platt. As forceful as Bryan Robson once was in midfield, Platt indicated at Wembley on Tuesday night that he will be the principal figure in Graham Taylor's attempt to reach the European championship finals.

Platt's final act typified his tireless contribution. Having broken up a Soviet attack on the edge of his own area in the closing minute, he ran some 80 yards to complete a move of 13 passes and claim his second goal in the 3-1 victory.

His energy, which was un-

diminished in spite of his journey back from Malaysia, where Aston Villa were on tour, is as valuable an asset as his scoring rate. With six goals in 17 appearances for England, he is even more prolific than his predecessor, Robson.

Yet Platt ideally needs a creative assistant and, in the prolonged absence of Gascoigne, there appear to be no available candidates. Batty and Thomas, the only possibilities for selection in the other central midfield role, against Argentina on Saturday, are not essentially constructive. Nor is Hodge, who will be the other choice during the summer tour.

"We don't know much about Argentina," Platt said. "But it all depends on how we play on the day anyway. With home advantage, we must be the favourites for the cup. It is important to keep our unbeaten run going and get some sort of spirit going."

Lineker is sure to reclaim his place and the captaincy. Pearce and Walker, both of whom were similarly unavailable against the Soviets because of the FA Cup final,

are also expected to be recalled. The return of Seaman in goal is less certain.

Woods was blameless for the Soviets' goal, credited as an own goal to Mark Wright and only the third to be conceded in seven internationals under Taylor. When he was required to protect England's lead early in the second half, Woods palmed away a header from Mostovoi with athletic assurance.

Moreover, he has agreed to go on the tour of Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. Seaman, though he was given no choice by Arsenal but to withdraw, could find that by next season he is back where he started, acting as the understudy for Woods.

Peter Beardsley was last night drafted into the England squad for the match against Argentina. The Liverpool forward, who appeared as a substitute against the Soviet Union, replaces the injured Paul Gascoigne.

The Sheffield United forward, Brian Deane, has been brought into the England squad for the tour to Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Death of a Wembley Cup Final legend

By MARTIN SEARBY

STANLEY Mortenson, the former England, Blackpool, Hull City and Southport centre forward, has died in a Blackpool nursing home. He was aged 69.

Mortenson joined Blackpool in 1946 and played for them for nine years, making 317 League appearances which brought him 197 goals. He moved on to Hull City in November 1955 and ended his career in 1957 at Southport.

It will be for his FA Cup exploits that Mortenson, who was born in South Shields, will be best remembered. He played in three finals with Blackpool, collecting a loser's medal in 1948 against Manchester United and 1951 against Newcastle United before he scored three memorable goals against Bolton Wanderers in 1953, the match known as "the Matthews' final".

Mortenson played 25 times for England and he went on to become manager at the club where he spent most of his career. He was very much in evidence last January when

Blackpool played Tottenham Hotspur and was deeply moved by the ovation given to himself and Nat Lofthouse, who were on opposite sides in that 1953 final.

His death was announced before Blackpool's fourth division play-off game with Scunthorpe in which victory would take Blackpool back to Wembley for the first time since 1953.

Sir Stanley Matthews said: "He was a dear colleague and it is extremely sad."



Mortenson: fine forward

Faldo has his sights on £10 million collection

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo yesterday overcame the frustration of being an early victim in the Canon Shoot-Out Champions' Challenge at Wentworth when he left the course to sign a contract with Pringle of Scotland, which could make him £10 million richer by the turn of the century.

Faldo has been with Pringle since 1981, but the extension to his contract, which will take their association through to

2001, is an acknowledgment of the astonishing upturn in sales since the Nick Faldo Collection was launched following his Open Championship win at Muirfield in 1987.

Graham Hayward the managing director of Pringle, said: "If Nick Faldo and the collection continue to be as successful as they are today, then we confidently expect the value of this contract to him to be worth in excess of £5 million. That figure could become as much as £10 mil-

lion. We have sold £1.5 million garments in the Nick Faldo collection in three years."

Faldo lies 164th in the Volvo Order of Merit, with £2,000 although, following a week of intense practice, he is as "keen as mustard" to top up in the Volvo PGA Championship which begins at Wentworth tomorrow.

"I flew back from Spain after missing the half-way cut and immediately got the video out to check things through," Faldo explained. "Then I

spoke to David Leadbetter, my coach, on the phone, took two days off fishing and then went beating balls on the range from Wednesday through to Sunday."

"I must admit I hit nothing like the number of practice balls that I once did. But it is quality practice. It means two solid hours on the range and one hour working on my putting and chipping. That's as much as I can do because I don't want a recurrence of the stress fractures that led to me missing five weeks last year."

"David arrived on Tuesday and he spotted a few things which needed ironing out. But there is nothing major to worry about; it is all looking good."

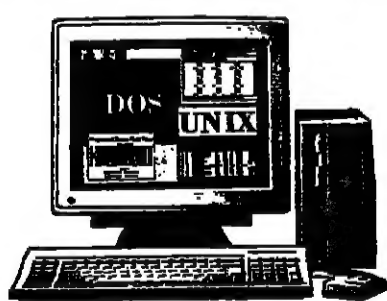
In fact it was Faldo's short game which put him out of the third hole. He chipped to five feet, hit his putt 4ft past and missed the return. He must erase that kind of error if he is to win a record fifth PGA Championship over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Ian Woosnam, the Master's

champion, won the Shoot-Out edging out Steven Richardson. Woosnam won £10,000 for his nominated charity, The Macmillan Fund for Cancer Research.

Even so Richardson demonstrated why he is top of the Volvo Order of Merit with £180,270. He had five birdies in nine holes, which included holing from 50ft from off the green at the fifth.

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